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Percussion Techniques

GROUP PERCUSSION INSTRUCTION

Winter Semester 2024

Course Instructor: Robert Darcy Larose (rlarose4@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: by appointment, TC126

The purpose of this course is to provide a solid technical foundation and thorough understanding of percussion instruments. Topics of discussion will include pedagogical strategies for teaching percussion in various ensembles. Musical considerations such as tone quality, rhythmic integrity, dynamics, phrasing, organization of a percussion section, and care and maintenance of equipment will be discussed. Appropriate methods for snare drum, timpani, mallets, drum set, and all manner of accessories will be addressed. Whereas some playing proficiency will be expected the focus will be on effectively understanding and teaching percussion. Students will participate using individual instruments as well as percussion ensembles. Students will also be involved in teaching and leading their peers as the course progresses.

Evaluation

- 5% class effort and participation/binder submission
- 10%. publishers/website assignment
- 25%. snare drum technique and teaching demonstration
- 20% timpani technique and teaching demonstration
- 15%. mallet technique along with accessories demonstration
- 25% final involving online quiz and teaching demonstration

Be sure to attend class as evaluations are done on an ongoing basis. Attendance counts!

You will prepare a [resource binder](#) as well with the handouts from the course. Handouts will be either given out by the instructor or available on line for printing. This binder will be submitted at the end of the course for grading on completion and organization.

Course Materials

- 1) One pair of snare drum sticks. Vic Firth 5A wood tip is recommended but most 5A's will do.
- 2) On pair of medium yarn mallets with birch handles (Balter, Vic Firth, Innovative, Encore, etc) OR timpani mallets of medium weight (often called 'general')

3) Small 3 ring binder for handouts provided by instructor. This will be evaluated at the end of the semester

4) Drum key (small tool for tuning drums)

Optional materials; a) optional mallets for keyboards or timpani if desired.

b) copy of R. Larose's book on Latin Percussion which can be made available through the instructor

Practice Pads will be made available by the instructor for the duration of the course, but you may wish to purchase your own for future use. They are very useful and last forever.

Winter Semester 2024

Class 1 Jan. 10 Intro to the course

Class 2 Jan. 12 Snare Drum

Class 3 Jan. 17 Snare Drum

Class 4 Jan. 19 Ensemble

Class 5 Jan. 24 Snare

Class 6 Jan. 26 Ensemble

Class 7 Jan. 31. Snare

Class 8 Feb. 2 Snare drum evaluation during class time (25%)

Class 9 Feb. 7 Timpani

Class 10 Feb.9 Ensemble

Class 11 Feb.14 Timpani

Class 12 Feb. 16 Ensemble

~~ UWO Reading Week, February 17 to 25 ~~

Class 13 Feb. 28 Timpani

Class 14 March 1 Ensemble

Class 15 March 6 Timpani evaluation during class time (20%)

Class 16 March 8 Ensemble (Publishers/Website assignment due this week, 10%)

Class 17 March 13 Mallets/keyboards

Class 18 March 15 Ensemble

Class 19 March 20 Mallets

Class 20 March 22 Drum Kit

Class 21 March 27 Mallet evaluation during class time (15%)

* No Class Friday March 29, Good Friday *

Class 22 April 3 Student based teaching and evaluation (preparation)

Class 23 April 5 Student based teaching and evaluation (25%)

Notes:

Please sanitize/wash your hands prior to class and after given that we may be touching shared surfaces.

Students will be expected to comply with Western policy and public health directives.

Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

Required information:

i) **Course Prerequisites:**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute

(short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%): In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.

vii) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or

psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

xi) Examinations & Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

xii) Electronic Devices in Exams: Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

xiii) Electronic Devices in Classrooms: The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

xiv) Plagiarism Detection Software Usage: All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

xv) Computer-marked Multiple-choice Tests or Exams: These may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.