

	Music Department MUE 203 Percussion Methods
Fall 2014	

Meeting days: Monday & Wednesday	Instructor: Andy Watkins
Meeting times: M / F 2:30-3:20	Phone:
Meeting location: Instrumental Room	E-mail: awatkins@pointloma.edu
Final Exam: Friday, December 19 th , 1:30pm-4pm	Office hours: by appointment

PLNU Mission
To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a laboratory class for percussion instruments with emphasis on pedagogical techniques. Students will be given time to interact with instruments and experience the technical complexities of percussion instruments including, but not limited to: snare drum, mallet instruments, cymbals, bass drum, timpani, drum set, triangle, tambourine and all the other small orchestral percussion instruments

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Demonstrate an intermediate proficiency on snare drum
- Demonstrate the ability to play elementary level technique on all of the keyboard percussion instruments
- Demonstrate the ability to successfully start a student on snare drum
- Perform and diagnose simple repair problems on percussion instruments
- Demonstrate an understanding of basic understanding of transpositions, ranges and percussion nomenclature
- Demonstrate a functional knowledge and skill on timpani, cymbals, bass drum, triangle, tambourine and other small orchestral percussion instruments.

METHODS USED IN THIS COURSE

Students enrolled in MUE 201 will achieve the objectives of the course through multiple methods:

- Class demonstrations and discussions
- Lab time playing percussion instruments
- Written and playing tests
- By practicing to each student's level of need

REQUIRED TEXTS AND RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- PfiFFner, Patrick, Percussion Methods, self published
- 1 pair concert drumsticks: recommend Vic Firth SD1
- 1 pair of xylophone mallets: recommend Innovative F9 mallets
- 1 pair of timpani mallets: recommend Vic Firth American Custom Timpani Mallets T3 Staccato
- *Students may also buy a pre-packaged set of mallets **INSTEAD** of separate pairs listed above; recommend Innovative Percussion Intermediate Mallet Pack.*
- practice pad: can be checked out from the teacher
- Folder or binder for handouts.

TOPICS COVERED

- Timpani
- Tambourine
- Triangle
- Bass Drum
- Crash and suspended Cym
- Drum Set Basics
- Gong
- Mallets
- Snare drum
- Appropriate instruments to Purchase
- Common repairs
- Implement Selection
- Percussion Selection
- Part Assignment
- Transpositions and ranges
- Percussion nomenclature
- Basic physical and acoustical nature of percussion instruments

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Students will be expected to attend every class meeting. Missing even one class can have a negative effect on a grade. Snare drum technique is very difficult and if a student gets behind, it is very difficult to catch up. There will be a private snare drum exam (not graded) half way into the snare drum period to make sure the student is on track. Information on the lectures in the second half will be on the final exam and the information missed won't be readily available somewhere else. Given the limited time, a student may not have a second chance to play certain instruments since there are so many percussion instruments.

If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice. If the date of de-enrollment is past the last date to withdraw from a class, the student will be assigned a grade of W or WF consistent with university policy in the grading section of the catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

CLASS PREPARATION

It is assumed that a student will come to class prepared. That may mean a different level of commitment from each student, depending on his or her initial level of expertise. Some students may need to practice

more than other students. That is the nature of a class like this. But it is also acknowledged that the class is a 1 unit class, so undue expectations will not be placed on time or commitment.

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session on the day they are due. Late assignments are not accepted, so if there are any issues you know about that may prevent you from completing an assignment in a timely manner, be sure to discuss it with me before the due date!

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. As stated in the university catalog, “Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one’s own when in reality they are the results of another person’s creativity and effort. Such acts include plagiarism, copying of class assignments, and copying or other fraudulent behavior on examinations. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for a) that particular assignment or examination, and/or b) the course.” See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, students requesting academic accommodations must file documentation with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center. Once the student files documentation, the Disability Resource Center will contact the student’s instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual needs of the student. See [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publically posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster.). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day – Friday, December 19th, 1:30pm-4pm**. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Point Loma Nazarene University encourages the use of technology for learning, communication, and collaboration. It is each student’s responsibility to check his or her PLNU email on a daily basis. Since

eClass will be used in this course, it is each student's responsibility to be able to access eClass and complete required tasks on time. (For help contact the Helpdesk x2222).

You are welcome to bring your laptop, iPad, and/or cell phone to class—but please make sure you use them appropriately and responsibly. If a tech tool becomes a distraction or disruption while class is in session, I will ask you to put it away or invite you to no longer bring it to class.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Snare Drum Performance Test	15%
Snare Drum Startup Lesson	15%
Attendance	40%
Final	30%

Grading for this course is on a fixed scale:

PERCENTAGE	GRADE	PERCENTAGE	GRADE
100-94	A	76.9-74	C
93.9-90	A-	73.9-70	C+
89.9-87	B+	69.9-67	D+
86.9-84	B	66.9-64	D
83.9-80	B-	63.9-60	D-
79.9-77	C+	Below 60	F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Focuses may change to accommodate master classes, guests and other unforeseen situations.

Class Dates		Main focus
Sep-5		Course overview; intro into snare technique.
Sep-8		Snare
Sep-12		Snare
Sep-15		Snare; tambourine

Sep-19		Snare; tambourine
Sep-22		Snare; cymbals
Sep-26		Snare; cymbals
Sep-29		Snare; bass drum
Oct-3		Snare; triangle
Oct-6		Snare; castanets
Oct-10		Snare; gong and tam-tam
Oct-13		Snare; woodblocks
Oct-17		Snare; review/catch-up
Oct-20		Snare; review/catch-up
Oct-27		SNARE TEST
Oct-31		mallets
Nov-3		mallets
Nov-7		mallets
Nov-10		timpani
Nov-14		timpani
Nov-17		timpani
Nov-21		drum set
Nov-24		drum set
Dec-1		drum set
Dec-5		drum set
Dec-8		latin percussion; hand drums
Dec-12		review
12/19/2014		
