

University of North Texas – College of Music
Syllabus MUAG 1117, Fall 2026



MUAG 1117 - Percussion Class

Fall 2026; Sec. 501

T/TR; 9:35-10:55am; Room MU142



Instructor: Mr. Hunter Gross
Email: huntergross@my.unt.edu
Office: BAIN 209
Office Hours: TR 08:30a–09:30a; <i>available other times by appointment</i>



Course Description:

MUAG 1117 Percussion Class is designed to provide music education majors with a comprehensive understanding of teaching methods and performance techniques for a wide range of percussion instruments commonly used in academic-based ensembles. Through active participation, course participants will gain knowledge of percussion instruments' acoustical properties, methods of sound production, techniques, and notation. The course will also address important topics such as equipment purchases, literature selection, ensemble setups, percussion auditions, and equipment maintenance through class discussions and projects.



Course Goals:

Through full participation in this course, students will be prepared to:

1. Demonstrate the beginning instrument selection process for percussionists.
2. Model appropriate sequencing for teaching percussion basics to a beginning student.
3. Identify, diagnose, and prescribe solutions for common performance problems encountered by percussion students.
4. Choose materials and literature to promote the percussionists' musical and technical development.
5. Demonstrate basic knowledge of grips/hand positions, acoustic characteristics of presented instruments, and practical applications for various sticks and mallets.
6. Advise students, caregivers, and administration in selecting percussion equipment that will fit their needs and budget.
7. Identify practical setup arrangements for percussion instruments in an ensemble setting.
8. Encounter performance challenges and solutions through participation in a percussion ensemble



Required Materials:

- One pair of “general” drumsticks: *Innovative Percussion IP-1 or Vic Firth SD1 are recommended*
 - www.steveweissmusic.com; www.percussionsource.com; www.sweetwater.com
- One snare drum practice pad for use at home/practice/playing assignments; recommendations below
 - REMO RT-0010; Vic Firth PAD12; Innovative Percussion RP-1R; Evans HQ 12” EVA-RF12G
 - Feel free to purchase a full student practice pad/stick pack (you will use it down the road!)



Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance and participation are essential to learning in this course. The instructor will take attendance for each class period. Students are allowed to be absent for a total of (3) class periods without penalty (not counting university excused absences). A fourth unexcused absence will lower the student's final grade by one letter. If more than (4) total classes are missed, the student will earn an 'F' for the final semester grade. If you are late, know that you are welcome to join the class; however, (2) instances of significant tardiness will be considered (1) absence from class. Please plan to attend every class unless you have a university excused absence, such as active military service or an official university function, as stated in the [Student Attendance and Authorized Absences Policy](#). No matter the absence, students are responsible for making up any work missed from class.



Assignment Descriptions:

Online Exams: (30%) <i>(3 total)</i>	There will be three equally weighted CANVAS exams over the semester. Each exam will cover specifics of percussion pedagogy, techniques, instrument construction, and acoustic concepts. Expect short answers, multiple-choice, and matching questions that pertain to class discussions and handouts. Exam #1: <i>beginners, snare drum, and rudiments</i> Exam #2: <i>keyboard percussion, timpani, and accessories</i> Exam #3: <i>drum set, world percussion, and marching percussion</i>
In-class Playing Quizzes: (20%) <i>(4 total)</i>	The course instructor will administer four playing quizzes during class throughout the semester. Playing Quizzes will be on the basic snare drum, marimba, timpani, and rudimental drumming. The requirements for each Quiz will be discussed in class and posted on CANVAS. Students may access specific Playing Quiz dates in the course schedule below.
Digital Portfolio (20%)	Your portfolio should represent everything you have accumulated from this course (e.g., notes, handouts, relevant articles, concert reviews, playing quizzes, projects, and other pertinent documents). This Portfolio is for your reference and use when you become a full-time classroom teacher. The specific requirements for this (digital) notebook will be posted on CANVAS.
Participation: (10%)	See the attendance policy above.
Budget Proposal Project (10%)	The goal of this project is for you to become familiar with the process of finding and purchasing percussion equipment. The requirements and rubric for this project will be posted on CANVAS.
Performance Review: (10%)	Each student will be required to attend (1) outside of class percussion concert performance (e.g., percussion ensemble, recital, concerto, etc.). Following this event, students will submit a formal review of the concert. Specific guidelines for this review will be posted on CANVAS. Observed events may be at UNT, other surrounding universities, or local public schools. UNT percussion concerts and recitals can be found at https://music.unt.edu/events.
*** Instructors will not accept late assignments unless previously arranged/approved ***	



Grade Distribution:

A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	00 – 59%

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a). use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b). dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c). the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d). dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e). any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a). the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b). the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

LINK: disability.unt.edu Phone: (940) 565-4323

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

Link: <https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Link: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR, FALL 2023

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

FINANCIAL AID & SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

Link: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is:

- Myriam Reynolds
- Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
- (940) 565-2741
- Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

STUDENT RESOURCES

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to students, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

This syllabus may be modified at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed in class and reflected on CANVAS.

**Tentative Class Schedule:****MUAG 1117 - Percussion Methods – Fall 2026**

<u>Week 1:</u>	8/18	Syllabus, Introductions, & Selecting Beginning Percussionists
	8/20	SNARE: Grip, Fulcrum, Stick Anatomy & Four Basic Stroke Types
<u>Week 2:</u>	8/25	SNARE: Snare Anatomy, Classroom setup, Warm-ups, & Stickings
	8/27	SNARE: Warm-ups cont., Accents, Rudiments & Rolls
<u>Week 3:</u>	9/1	SNARE: Rudiments cont. & Notation – ***Playing Quiz #1***
	9/3	ONLINE ZOOM CLASS (link posted in announcements): SNARE: Maintenance, Manufacturers, Method Books – Exam #1 Review
<u>Week 4:</u>	9/8	KEYBOARD: Basic Stroke, 2-mallet Grip, Approach, Exercises, Rolls
	9/10	KEYBOARD: Anatomy, Ranges, Types, ***Online Exam 1 DUE***
<u>Week 5:</u>	9/15	KEYBOARD: 4-mallet Grip, Exercises, Pedaling/Dampening
	9/17	KEYBOARD: Notation & Reading – ***Playing Quiz #2***
<u>Week 6:</u>	9/22	KEYBOARD: Maintenance, Manufacturers, Method Books
	9/24	TIMPANI: Set-up, Anatomy, Ranges, Basic Stroke, Rolls/Dampening
<u>Week 7:</u>	9/29	TIMPANI: Tuning, Notation, & Articulation – ***Playing Quiz #3***
	10/1	ACCESSORIES: Cymbals, Gong, Concert Bass, Tambourine, Triangle, etc.
<u>Week 8:</u>	10/6	ENSEMBLE SET-UP: Band, Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble
	10/8	FLEX DAY / ***Online Exam 2 DUE***
<u>Week 9:</u>	10/13	MARCHING: Auditions, Basic Instrumentation, Instrument Types
	10/15	MARCHING: Exercises, Technique, Setup
<u>Week 10:</u>	10/20	MARCHING: Front Ensemble, Electronics, Rehearsal Awareness
	10/22	***Budget Assignment DUE***
<u>Week 11:</u>	10/27	SNARE: Recap and Review / ***Playing Quiz #4***
	10/29	WORLD PERCUSSION: Hand drums, Steel Drums, General Technique
<u>Week 12:</u>	11/3	DRUM SET: Set-up, Anatomy, Applications, Styles, & Notation
	11/5	PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: Lit. Resources and Part Assignments

<u>Week 13:</u>	11/10	CLASS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
	11/12	*** NO CLASS, PASIC *** / ***Online Exam 3 DUE***
<u>Week 14:</u>	11/17	CLASS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
	11/19	ORGANIZATION & STORAGE ***Portfolio DUE***
<u>Week 15:</u>	11/24	*** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK ***
	11/26	*** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK ***
<u>Week 16:</u>	12/1	*** NO CLASS, JURIES ***
	12/3	*** NO CLASS, JURIES *** / ***Concert Review DUE***