

Syllabus – Spring 2026

Percussion Arranging

MUAG 4370 / 6370, rm. MU142

Instructor: Paul Rennick

e-mail: paul.rennick@unt.edu

phone: 940-367-1637

Through a series of assigned arranging projects, this class will cover percussion arranging/composition concepts using several styles of music with a wide variety of instrumentations/orchestrations.

- All arrangements will be completed by individual students and submitted electronically (upload to Dropbox, USB drive, or e-mail), using a notation program of your choice: Finale, Sibelius, Dorico, or XML, etc. I request that you use one of the more professional software programs, avoiding programs like Muse Score to prevent issues sharing. Handwritten scores are also acceptable (especially for Project #3).

- Students must also submit 1 hard copy of each score, as well as copies of parts for in-class rehearsals.

- Selected arrangements will be performed and recorded by class members during regular class period (rm. MU142). A select few will also be rehearsed and performed on Departmental Recital.

Tests will be administered throughout the semester dealing with different aspects of arranging, such as: instrument ranges/registers, score order, editing/cutting scores, compositional techniques to adapt non-percussion instruments, and arranging techniques specifically for percussion instruments.

Since no textbook is required, each student will compile a notebook containing all arrangements and notes completed throughout the semester.

In lieu of a final exam you will be expected to turn in a complete portfolio of all projects, score and parts, with implemented corrections from in-class rehearsals.

Grading: There will be five arrangements (100 points each)

- Adaptation of a String Quartet for Marimba Quintet
- Adaptation of Arrangement #1 for a Large Percussion Ensemble
- Non-Melodic Percussion Composition with no standard keyboard percussion
- Modern Contemporary/Classical piece for Large Percussion Ensemble
- Pop Ensemble (Large Ens.), Steel Band, or Marching Percussion Ensemble

One test on: instrument ranges (100 points)

New Composer presentations, oral biographies of 3 influential composers

Attendance: Students are expected to attend class regularly. Two absences will not affect your grade. Beginning with the third absence, the final average will be lowered one letter grade per absence.

Assignment Submission: Students are expected to submit assignments in a timely manner. The assignment grade will be lowered by one letter grade for each day late.

Students are expected to have a notebook and access to a computer with music notation software.

All arrangements should be submitted electronically using a music notation software program (or a pdf of a handwritten score).

Class schedule:

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
Jan.	12 –	14– Orientation syllabus review expectations	16 – Orientation Instr. ranges, score set-up Review assignment #1
	19 – Test #1 approval of project. #1 Study example of Quintet	21 - Test #1 again Score setup Copyright Source material	23 – Software review Arranging concepts
	26 – Arranging concepts	28 – 1st Arrangement due	30 - Arr. Performances
Feb.	2 -Arr. Performances	4 – Arr. Perf.	6 - Arr. Perf.
	9 – TMEA Review assignment #2 Discuss adapting Arr. #1 arranging concepts	11 – TMEA (no class)	13 - TMEA (no class)
	16 – 2nd Arrangement due	18 – Arr. Perf.	20 – Arr. Perf.
	23 – Arr. Perf. Parameters and Limits Review Arr.#3 Original composition Compositional Tech.	25 – Comp. Tech. Drum Composition	27 - Arranging concepts

Mar. 2- Arr. Concepts

4 – **Arr. #3 Due**

6– Arr. #3 Perf.
Project #4 questions
Assignment #4 approval

9 – Spring Break

11 – Spring Break

13 – Spring Break

16 – Arr. #3 Perf.

18 – Arr. #3 Perf.

20 – Arr. #3 Perf.

23 -**Arr.#4 Due**

25 – Arr. Perf.

27 - Arr. Perf.

30- Arr. #4 Perf.

April

1 - Arr. #4 Perf.

3 – Arranging Tech.
Review assign. #5
Arranging tech./pop
Pop, Marching, Steel Band

6 – Arr. Perf.

8 – Composer Projects

10 – Composer Projects

12 – Composer Projects

15 – Composer Projects

17 – Composer Projects

19 – Composer Projects

22– Composer Projects

24 - **Arr.#5 Due**

May 4 - **Portfolio Due**