

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



MUAG 1117 - Percussion Class

Fall 2026; Sec. 500 (Class # 4493)
M/W/F; 10:10am – 11:00am; Room MU 142



Dr. Michael Crawford
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Office Hours: Bain Hall Rm 211; W 11:15-12:15



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



Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance and participation are essential to learning in this course. The instructor will take attendance 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, please 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; 10% each)</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. All exams will be online and completed outside of class. 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 Tests: (20%) <i>(4 total; 5% each)</i>	The course instructor will administer four playing tests during class throughout the semester. Playing Tests will be on snare drum, marimba, timpani, and rudimental drumming (snare). The requirements for each Test will be discussed in class and posted on CANVAS. Students may access specific Playing Test 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 review, playing tests, projects, and other pertinent documents). This Portfolio is for your reference and use when you become a full-time teacher. The specific requirements for this (digital) notebook will be posted on CANVAS. The due date can be found in the course schedule below.
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%

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- MU: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- MU: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room.
- MU: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- MU: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- MU: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Practice North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Practice South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- MPAC: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam.

Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalties. 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.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

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

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

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

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [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.

See: [ODA](#)

Phone: (940) 565-4323

Health and Safety Information <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

SEMESTER CALENDAR, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Financial Aid and 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.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you

to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [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 student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

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 Class – Fall 2026

<u>Week 1</u>	8/17/26	Syllabus, Class Introductions, Course Description
	8/19/26	Intro: Percussion Class Setup – Selecting Beginners
	8/21/26	SNARE: Grip, Fulcrum, Rebound Stroke, Warm-ups
<u>Week 2</u>	8/24/26	SNARE: Stickings cont. and Four Basic Stokes
	8/26/26	SNARE: Four Basic Strokes cont., Accents, Rolls
	8/28/26	SNARE: Drum Anatomy, Stickings, Warm-ups cont.
<u>Week 3</u>	8/31/26	SNARE: Rolls cont., Rudiments, Notation
	9/2/26	SNARE: Maintenance, Manufacturers, Method Books
	9/4/26	SNARE: Review *** In-class Playing Test 1 ***
<u>Week 4</u>	9/7/26	***NO CLASS, LABOR DAY HOLIDAY***
	9/9/26	KEYBOARD: Basic Stroke, Approach, Notation
	9/11/26	KEYBOARD: Exercises & Approach cont. *** Exam 1 DUE ***
<u>Week 5</u>	9/14/26	KEYBOARD: Types, Anatomy, Reading
	9/16/26	KEYBOARD: Warm-ups, Rolls, and Reading
	9/18/26	KEYBOARD: 4-Mallet Grips, Maintenance & Manufacturers

<u>Week 6</u>	9/21/26	KEYBOARD: Review
	9/23/26	*** In-class (Recorded) Playing Test 2 ***
	9/25/26	TIMPANI: Intro, Anatomy, Grip, Stroke
<u>Week 7</u>	9/28/26	TIMPANI: Tuning, Articulation, and Notation
	9/30/26	TIMPANI: Review *** In-class Playing Test 3 ***
	10/2/26	ACCESSORIES: Cymbals, Tam-tams, Gongs
<u>Week 8</u>	10/5/26	ACCESSORIES: Tambourine, Triangle, etc.
	10/7/26	ENSEMBLE SET-UPS: Band/Orch./Jazz Ensemble/Perc. Ensemble
	10/9/26	FLEX DAY / *** Online Exam 2 DUE ***
<u>Week 9:</u>	10/12/26	MARCHING: Auditions, Instrument Types
	10/14/26	MARCHING: Exercises, Technique, Setup (need SD sticks)
	10/16/26	MARCHING: Front Ensemble, Electronics, Rehearsal Techniques
<u>Week 10:</u>	10/19/26	MARCHING: Experience/Play Marching Percussion Instruments
	10/21/26	RUDIMENTAL SNARE: Review *** In-class Playing Test 4 ***
	10/23/26	WORLD PERCUSSION: Hand Drums, Technique, General Pedagogy
<u>Week 11:</u>	10/26/26	WORLD PERCUSSION: Steel drums, Latin Percussion, and Brazilian
	10/28/26	DRUM SET: Setup, Anatomy, Applications
	10/30/26	DRUM SET: Styles
<u>Week 12:</u>	11/2/26	PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: Lit. Resources and Part Assignments
	11/4/26	CLASS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
	11/6/26	CLASS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE/*** Budget Assignment DUE ***
<u>Week 13:</u>	11/9/26	CLASS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE
	11/11/26	*** NO CLASS, PASIC ***
	11/13/26	*** NO CLASS, PASIC ***
<u>Week 14:</u>	11/16/26	PERCUSSION AUDITION & ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATION
	11/18/26	ORGANIZATION & STORAGE

	11/20/26	MISC. RESOURCES & TECHNOLOGY / *** Online Exam 3 DUE ***
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<u>Week 15:</u>	11/23/26	*** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK ***
	11/25/26	*** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK ***
	11/27/26	*** NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK ***

<u>Week 16:</u>	11/30/26	*** NO CLASS, Juries ***
	12/2/26	*** NO CLASS, Juries ***
	12/4/26	*** NO CLASS, READING DAY *** / *** Concert Review DUE ***