

CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
MUSC 1450 – Percussion Ensemble

Semester/Year: FALL 2015

Lecture Hours: 0

Lab Hours: 3

Credit Hours: 1

Class Time: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

Days: T, TH

Room: MUI 16

Instructor: Ron Coulter

**Instructor's Contact
Information:** Office MU204

Office Phone: 307-268-2532

Email:
ronaldcoulter@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: Posted on office door.

Course Description: Performs selected diverse chamber music for various combinations of percussion instruments and is open to all students with previous percussion experience who can qualify by audition for participation. Course content changes each semester.

Prerequisites: Ability to read music notation and prior performance experience with percussion instruments.

Goal: To gain the physical and conceptual skills to perform chamber music through the study and performance of diverse literature for percussion instruments.

Outcomes: 1. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives.
3. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course each student will have:

1. developed performance skills in conducted and un-conducted chamber music on a variety of percussion instruments.
2. gained strategies for instrument logistics and chamber music rehearsal.
3. gained experience in public performance through a variety of percussion literature.

Methodology: Two 120-minute rehearsals each week. A rehearsal schedule will be posted each week that includes repertoire and tempo goals. One public performance will be presented each semester including a dress rehearsal. Daily individual practice is required and will be documented in a practice log and practice time summation chart. Verbal feedback is rendered at each rehearsal.

Evaluation Criteria: All rehearsals and public performances are evaluated on both subjective (musicianship, attitude, expressivity, artistry) and objective (punctuality, attendance, preparation, accurate execution, comprehension and attainment of assigned tasks) criteria. The end-of-semester concert serves as the final examination and is assessed along with all rehearsals.

The student is expected to achieve or make *significant* progress toward each assigned task, demonstrated through performance in bi-weekly rehearsals and scheduled public performances. Comprehension of qualitative (artistic) and quantitative (technical) aspects of music performance are expected for each assignment and are demonstrated through discussion and live performance. A 90-100% - Student achieves all goals and displays superior organizational skills, preparation, and

commitment resulting in achievement of their musical potential. Student has flawless punctuality and attendance, and displays dedication and curiosity in the subject matter. Student demonstrates sensitivity to ensemble realities and commitment to the group's musical purpose. A demonstrated understanding of the musical whole and their individual role through score study and listening.

B 80-89% - Student makes significant progress, is punctual, has near flawless attendance, good organizational skills, but demonstrates a lack of commitment and/or curiosity in the material, possible lack of ensemble awareness or commitment, lack of teamwork/cooperative skills, lack of accurate execution of material, etcetera.

C 70-79% - Student makes noticeable progress, but displays only partial comprehension of material and deficiency in other areas such as organization, punctuality, attendance, etc.

D 60-69% - Student demonstrates minimal comprehension of material and makes minimal progress. May include lack of organization, flawed punctuality and/or attendance, insufficient preparation or teamwork, etcetera.

F 0-59% - Student makes nominal progress and demonstrates nominal effort, no comprehension of assigned material; also a lack of interest and commitment to the subject matter, flawed punctuality and attendance, etcetera.

Extra Credit: No extra credit is offered.

Required Materials: Failure to obtain all required materials will result in failure of the course.

1. Pencil and notebook
2. Metronome (Tama Rhythm Watch recommended)
3. Stick/mallet bag
4. Implements as requested by the instructor

Class Policies:

Last Date to Change to Audit Status or Withdraw with a W Grade: Refer to the most current Casper College Catalog.

Attendance: This attendance policy is meant to maximize your educational experience in this course and foster professionalism. All absences, complete or partial, must be documented in a written memo (hard copy only, emails are not accepted) and submitted in person to the course instructor prior to the absence when possible, or immediately following the absence. All documented absences will be reviewed when your course grade is being determined. All undocumented absences will be considered unexcused.

1. Attendance to all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. You must attend all rehearsals, even if you do not play on a particular composition. You should assist your colleagues in setting up and tearing down instruments if you are not playing. Students may be excused from attending rehearsals in which they do not play at the discretion of the instructor.
2. Excused absence is granted only for required coursework/events within another CC academic course that you are currently enrolled in or documented court-ordered appearances. Such conflicts must be discussed far in advance and be accompanied by a written memo from the instructor of the conflicting CC course.
3. Absence due to illness, family emergency, or act of Nature will be considered on an individual basis. The instructor should be notified immediately of such situations, and the absence must be documented in a written memo.
4. Unexcused absences:
 - A. Each unexcused absence will result in the reduction of one letter grade per absence.
 - B. Unexcused absence from any dress rehearsal or concert will result in the final grade of "F"

and possibly dismissal from the ensemble.

C. Unexcused absences must be documented in a written memo (hard copy only, no emails).

5. When possible, the instructor should be notified in advance of an absence so that a substitute player may be arranged for that rehearsal. A student anticipating an absence should make arrangements for a substitute player and provide them with all music, set-up diagrams, and other pertinent rehearsal instructions.
6. Punctuality: Tardiness and leaving early are not permissible at any rehearsal or performance and will result in a reduction of your final grade for the course by a half-letter grade deduction per offense. You must be set up and ready to play at the beginning of every rehearsal, failure to begin on time will count as tardiness.

Concert Attire: All clothing must be dress-quality garments. Men: black shoes, black socks, black slacks, and colorful dress shirt. Women: black shoes, black socks, black slacks and a colorful dress shirt (or a black dress and colorful blouse). Generally: no high heels, platform shoes, tennis shoes, sandals, ties, jackets, suit-coats, tuxedos, hats, sunglasses, bandanas, provocative clothing, or excessive jewelry. Please note that black means solid black thus excluding color combinations.

Instrument Set-Up and Transportation: All members are required to assist with equipment set up and tear down at rehearsals and concerts. No member is excused until all instruments have been returned to the proper storage area. All logistics time and location information will be posted on the percussion ensemble weekly rehearsal schedule.

Music: Casper College or the instructor will provide all printed music. You are financially responsible for all music loaned to you. You must replace the entire score and parts of any lost or damaged music, and replace scores/parts marked with anything other than pencil. What constitutes damage includes: excessive markings (even in pencil), bent pages (dog-earing, folding, etc.), torn pages, exposure to liquids, dirt, etcetera.

Programming: Literature of various styles and ensemble sizes will be performed; from two players to the entire group and in certain circumstances solo literature. As much music as possible will be programmed; if music is prepared accurately and expediently additional music will be assigned.

Part Assignments: Part assignments are based on the following criteria:

1. Audition results.
2. Programming requirements.
3. Individual ability and experience; assignments are intended to be challenging yet attainable.
4. Every effort is made to balance the number of part assignments to each student throughout the year, however this is partly based on your history of preparation and reliability within the ensemble.
5. Parts may be reassigned at the discretion of the instructor, due to insufficient preparation by the student, recurrent punctuality/attendance problems, etcetera.

Performance Date(s): Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m. Wheeler Recital Hall (call time TBD)
Additional performance opportunities may arise; you will be notified well in advance.

Dress Rehearsal Date(s): Tuesday, November 17, 3:30-5:00 p.m. Wheeler Recital Hall

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a CC Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the V.P. for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly.

ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college's Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, 307-268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Schedule of Course Content: Part assignments will be made, and music distributed, in the first week. A detailed weekly rehearsal schedule will be posted outside MUI 16 each week. Approximately 25- to 50-minutes of music will be programmed and rehearsed throughout the semester for performance at a public concert.