Percussion Ensemble will provide opportunities for participation in percussion chamber ensembles (duets, trios, quartets, quintets, etc.), as student enrollment dictates. (1 Credit, MUS 406 & 0 Credit, MUS 506)

**Instructor**

Perry J. Gatch, III ...... Patterson Hall 51A, gatchiii@aol.com or gatchpj@westminster.edu, X6266 or 412.551.0145

**Prerequisites**

Permission from the instructor

**Course Topics**

- Percussion Ensemble Literature
- Percussion Ensemble Performance
- Percussion Instruments and Equipment
- Set-Up and Logistics
- Chamber Playing Style

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will demonstrate competencies in the following areas.

1. Students will become familiar with authors of percussion ensemble literature.
2. Students will be required to individually prepare all assigned music prior to rehearsals.
3. Students will become familiar with the instruments and equipment they are required to play for each piece.
4. Students will become acquainted with the set-up and logistics of each piece.
5. Students will gain exposure to various specialties in percussion through demonstrations and guest artists.
6. Students will complete regular research assignments on a broad base of topics that will include, but are not limited to: artists, authors, composers, ensembles, literature, publishers, manufacturers of percussion instruments and equipment, and instrument history. Students will prepare presentations of their research.

**Assignments and Grade Weighting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rehearsal Preparation, Music</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehearsal Preparation, Set-up</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Course Materials**

Students are required to obtain small equipment¹ their assigned music requires. Borrowing equipment is acceptable upon proper consent of the lender.

**Grading**

The grade for MUS 406 & 506 is based on attendance, preparation of all assigned music, and performances. The following is a guideline:

- **A**: Has exceptionally prepared assigned music. Has all instruments and equipment set up prior to rehearsals.

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¹ Equipment is defined here as to mean, but not limited to: sticks, brushes, mallets, beaters, hardware, rosin, bows, small accessories (tambourines, triangles, shakers, claves, and the like),
- **B**: Has prepared assigned music well, a few mistakes. Has all instruments and equipment set-up in a timely manner.
- **C**: Has prepared assigned music fair, many mistakes. Does not always have instruments and equipment set-up in a timely manner. Causes some rehearsal delays.
- **D**: Has prepared music very little, many continuity problems. Does not have instruments and equipment set-up. Causes many rehearsal delays.
- **F**: Not prepared. Shows no understanding of required instruments or equipment. Does not show up.

### Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>94–100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>90–93.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>87–89.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>84–86.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>80–83.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>77–79.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>70–76.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>60–69.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
<td>0–59.99%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Course Work

Each member is responsible for attendance to any and all scheduled performances. Performance attire is all black unless otherwise indicated.

Each member is responsible for preparing all assigned music prior to rehearsals.

Each member of the ensemble is responsible for transporting all required instruments and equipment (including sticks, mallets, beaters, etc.) to the rehearsal/performance space in as timely a manner as possible.

Each member is required to be familiar with how their set-up relates to all members of the ensemble for each piece.

Each member of the ensemble is required to become familiar with the care, maintenance, and transportation of all instruments or equipment they require.

Any member who must miss a rehearsal is required to find an appropriate substitute player. Regular members who must miss a rehearsal are responsible for supplying substitute players with all music. Substitute players must adhere to the above standards. Also see: **Class Attendance and Excused Absences and Absences from Examinations** below.

### Class Attendance and Excused Absences

Regular class attendance is essential if students are to realize the full benefits of a college education. Accordingly, Westminster students are expected to attend all classes, unless specifically excused for some valid reason. Although each individual instructor may specify what constitutes a valid excuse, in general excused absences are allowed only for the following reasons:

1. Course-related field trips.
2. Illness that requires confinement to bed on physician’s orders or confinement in a hospital.
3. Death or serious illness in the immediate family.
4. Appearance in court.
5. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities recognized and/or sponsored by the College.

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, since these functions are often closely tied in to their professional preparation. Students who are involved in extracurricular or co-curricular activities at

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2 **Class Attendance and Excused Absences** is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, pgs. 69-70.
Westminster College must make this known to their professors before the end of the add period of each semester, particularly if such participation is anticipated to require them to be off campus at specific times. Excused absences do not excuse a student from completing the work that is missed. When possible, students should complete the assigned work in advance, or at such time as the professor specifies. It is the student’s responsibility to apprise all appropriate professors of off-campus involvement(s). With the professor’s knowledge of the student’s upcoming absences, conflicts should be minimized. The Office of Student Affairs will be notified whenever excessive absences occur. Where problems are identified which cannot be resolved by the faculty member and the student, a resolution will be made by the dean of the College.

Absences from Examinations
Absence from an announced examination results in a failing grade for the examination, unless suitable arrangements are made for a special examination. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing prior to the scheduled examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, then a note to the effect is added and the petition is presented to the dean of the College. The examination may be given only if the dean also approves the petition. In the case of athletic championship tournaments that fall during final week, it is the College’s policy to permit those who are approved to participate in these tournaments to reschedule their missed work. Instructors and the dean must be notified in advance of the conflict and students must arrange with their instructors a place and time to make up the work.

Academic Integrity
Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College. Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of this code of behavior. Outlined in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, page 70-74 are examples of and specific consequences for academic dishonesty at Westminster. The list of examples is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to provide an overview of the community’s common concerns. Students who are unsure as to whether specific behavior not listed here will constitute academic dishonesty should consult with their individual course instructors.

Information for Students with Disabilities
Westminster College is committed to providing services and support for students with physical, psychological, visual, hearing or learning disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students who seek accommodations for diagnosed disabilities should contact the director of the Office of Disability Resources for further information.

Course Calendar
The instructor will advise members of the rehearsal schedule and pieces to be rehearsed by Tuesday of each academic week via email and sometimes a printed post in or near 51A.

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3 Absences from Examinations is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, pg. 70.
4 Academic Integrity is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, pg. 70.