

University of Mississippi
Course Syllabus: Percussion Ensemble/ MUS 155-456
Ricky Burkhead, Associate Professor
Percussion Studio Room 116 Music Building
Telephone: (662) 915-5665/ cell: 801-4638 email: burkhead@olemiss.edu
Office hours: posted or by appointment

The University of Mississippi Percussion Ensemble is a major part of the percussionist's curriculum. The ensemble is devoted to performing literature composed and arranged expressly for percussion, encompassing a very wide spectrum of styles and instruments. Students will learn the basic technique of various percussion instruments. Upon completion of the course students should have a greater appreciation for Twentieth-Century percussion music and be able to identify and demonstrate basic styles and techniques.

As percussion is in the forefront of Twenty First-Century musical development, our music is ever changing and frequently produces exciting and experimental results. The UM percussion ensemble performs two on campus concerts during the school year (one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester). The ensemble also performs at the Mississippi Day of Percussion in the spring.

The instructional emphasis is the development of performance technique specific to percussion. This includes improvisation, sight-reading, independent learning and the development of listening and ensemble skills.

Percussionists must be at rehearsals early to set-up, and must stay afterwards until all instruments are put away. There are no exceptions. All assignments made by the instructor should show evidence of independent learning of the music by the student in preparation for rehearsals. The expectation is that the student should be secure on notes, rhythms, and stylistic interpretation through daily practice beyond ensemble rehearsal.

*Our equipment is stored in designated areas. These areas must be kept organized and neat. Students are not to store personal belongings in these areas unless otherwise advised by the instructor. These areas must be secured when not in use. **Take it upon yourself to see that All our equipment is always put away, covered, and cared for.***

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities, which have been verified through the Office of Student Disability Services, are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

Grading: (Scale: A = 92-100, A- = 90-91, B+ = 88-89, B = 82-87, B- 80-81, C+ = 78-79, C = 72-77, C- = 70-71, D+ = 68-69, D = 62-67, D- = 60-61, F = 59 and Below)