

**University of Mississippi**

**Course Syllabus: Steel Drum Ensemble/ MUS 141-542**

**Ricky Burkhead, Associate Professor**

**Percussion Studio**

**Room 116**

**Music Building**

**Tele: 915-5665 or 801-4638 email: [burkhead@olemiss.edu](mailto:burkhead@olemiss.edu) Office hours: posted or by appointment**

*The University Steel Drum/Salsa Band purpose is to rehearse and perform compositions written expressly for Caribbean ensembles. The musical styles each student will encounter are calypso, Cuban, Brazilian, classical, pop and jazz. The ensemble uses six instruments from the nine-member steel drum family. Instrumentation consists of wind and rhythm section instruments, (3) tenor pans, (1) set of double tenors, (2) sets of double seconds, (2) sets of triple guitars, and (2) set of basses. Other instruments used are drumset, congas, bongos, timbales, triangles, brake drum, cowbells, shakers and other accessories. Students will learn the function of each instrument. Upon completion on the course students should have a greater appreciation for Caribbean music, be able to identify several Caribbean styles and be able to demonstrate fundamental playing skills for the various instruments.*

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

***Rehearsals** are scheduled in the steel band room (Monday from 6:30-8:30 PM and a second rehearsal to be determined by student schedules). Additional rehearsals may be scheduled prior to a performance. You will be notified in advance. All participants should come 10 minutes prior to the starting time of a rehearsal for warm-up. You are expected to make every performance unless it conflicts with a class. If scheduling conflicts arise which make it impossible to attend a performance, please notify me well in advance. All parts must be prepared and performed at a level satisfactory for performance.*

*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.*

***Graduate students** will arrange a composition for the entire ensemble.*

**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)