The purpose of this class is to provide a solid technical foundation and thorough understanding of percussion instruments. Topics of discussion will include the role and function of percussion in various ensembles, musical considerations such as tone quality and phrasing, organization of a percussion section, and care and maintenance of equipment.

Marking will be based on attendance (10%), three class assignments (each at 10%; 30% total), two playing tests (one at 10% during class and final 20% outside class), and one written final test (30%).

Attendance Policy

An unexcused absence will result in a loss two (2) marks from the attendance component of your overall evaluation. (i.e. One unexcused absence equals 2 out of 10)

Failure to appear for a scheduled exam session (without documented medical evidence) will result in a mark of zero for that test/exam. Students with four (4) or more unexcused absences will be referred to the Chair of the Department and will be in jeopardy of failing the course.

Absences will be excused only if the student…
1) is involved in official UWO business that has been approved by the chair or the instructor;
2) has documented family issue;
3) has documented family or personal illness.

Arriving late for two (2) classes is equivalent to one unexcused absence.

Also required are the UWO Percussion Ensemble concerts on Friday, November 24th at 12:30 p.m. and/or 8:00 p.m.

Required Materials

Vic Firth SD1 General snare drum sticks
One Pair of medium yarn keyboard mallets with birch handles (Innovative, Encore, Grover, Malletech, Vic Firth, etc.)
All handouts (provided by the instructor throughout the semester)

Instruction Calendar (this may change slightly due to unforeseen conflicts)

First day: Receive syllabus and general introduction to the course
Snare Drum: September 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28
Assignment 1 due: September 28th
In-class Playing Quiz on October 3rd
Tuning/Maintenance: October 5th
Timpani: October 17, 19, 24, 26
Assignment 2 due: October 19th
Orchestral Percussion: October 31, November 2, 7, 9
Keyboards: November 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30
Assignment 3 due: November 28th
Review Day: December 5

Final Written Exam: Thursday, December 7th (in class)

Final Playing Quiz: We will sign up for the final playing test (which is given outside of class time) in the final week of classes.

Late written assignments will only be accepted and graded if permission has been granted by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will
receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.”

*Plagiarism is a serious Scholastic Offense.

*University Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at: www.studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm

As of May 2008, The University has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, which states that “in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean's office.”

Please note the University Statement regarding Mental Health:

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Students with special learning needs or circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be made.