

INSTRUMENTS for ELEMENTARY MUSIC

MUS 321.001

Darla Meek, Instructor

T/TH 2:00-3:15

Office: Music Building, Room 222

Classroom: Room 211

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T/TH 11:00-12:00, 1:00-2:00
Friday by appointment

University Mission Statement

Texas A&M University-Commerce nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

Music Department Mission Statement

The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide prospective elementary general music teachers with the skills necessary to teach lessons using recorder, barred instruments, body percussion, and unpitched percussion. Students will also be able to accompany songs with the guitar and dulcimer.

Course Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the student will:

- demonstrate correct playing technique for all barred instruments, unpitched instruments, and soprano recorder, including all material presented in class.
- demonstrate the ability to use four levels of body percussion as sound color, as ostinati, and as preparation for instrumental parts.
- be able to sing simple folk songs with up to three chords while accompanying him/herself on the guitar.
- be able to play simple songs on a dulcimer while reading notation.
- demonstrate melodic competency through instrumental and vocal improvisation in both *do* and *la* pentatonic scales.

- have developed an understanding of and be able to successfully engage children in playing instruments, listening, chanting, singing, and reading notation, and will demonstrate an understanding of logical, sequential teaching process using all media.
- be able to apply an understanding of individual differences among children, and to be able to create music lessons that cater to these differences. (This includes children with special needs, and English Language Learners.)
- develop appropriate classroom management techniques regarding the use and care of instruments.

Required Texts

- Burakoff, Gerald & Hettrick, William E. (1980) *The Sweet Pipes Recorder Book*. (Book One, Soprano) Sweet Pipes, Inc. (6722 Brentwood Stair, Ft. Worth, TX 76112)

Required Materials:

- One Yamaha YRS-24B Soprano Recorder (ivory plastic)
- One acoustic guitar, pick optional (There are some available for checkout.)
- Dulcimer, or dulcimer kit (There are some available for checkout.)
- Notebook for organizing your handouts. It is suggested that you create SEVEN DIVIDERS: Syllabus and Class Handouts, Body Percussion, Unpitched Percussion, Barred Instruments, Recorder, Dulcimer, Guitar.
- Materials for creating visuals for lessons (paper, posterboard, markers, etc.) if needed

Students Requesting Accommodations Due to Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

Attendance Policy

It is expected that, as future teachers, education students model professional behavior by arriving to every class on time, with assignments completed.

Each class period, an attendance count will be taken. Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work. **Due to its performance nature, CLASS WORK CANNOT BE MADE UP. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than four classes.** Tardiness or leaving early will affect your daily classwork grade.

Students who miss a class when an assignment is due are expected to email the homework assignment in Word format as an attachment to an email to the instructor by 11:59 p.m. **on the due date**, with this subject line: MUSIC 321, Assignment #_, Student Name, Due Date. **No late assignments will be accepted.** If you are absent, it is your responsibility to retrieve the information you missed, and to prepare your assignments, if any, for the following class. Handouts will be placed in an envelope outside my office.

In-class assessments and assignments missed because of absence cannot be made up. This policy will be strictly enforced. Please do not ask me to make an exception.

Classroom Expectations

All students are expected to follow the Tenets of Common Decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. These tenets are outlined in the *Student's Guide Handbook* under "Policies and Procedures: Conduct." The tenets also apply to all communication to me outside the classroom.

Please demonstrate commitment to your course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting your peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques graciously.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins, and should be concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins.

In this course, you will be very active...singing, moving, playing instruments, dancing, improvising, and more. All students are to be actively participating in each lesson, just as your students will be when you are teaching in a public or private school. Please wear comfortable but modest clothing in which you can move around easily. Undergarments should be concealed from view while you are in the music building.

Please be careful with our classroom materials, and use them only when instructed. Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered classwork grade.

Borrowing Materials

You have free access to all my personal books, CDs, and teaching materials. Several of these items will be placed under reserve in the library. These items are for use in the library only. Simply present your student ID card at the front desk.

If you would like to borrow a resource overnight that I keep in my office, simply sign the **Resource Checkout** book in my office. Since so many students may need the same item, please return any item you borrow the following class session.

Please take care that you observe the copyright laws, and the limits of fair use.

You may check out instruments to use this semester by filling out a contract in my office. Please keep the instrument in its case when not in use. It is expected that you will use extreme care with any instrument you check out. Instruments are to be returned in excellent condition with all parts and extra materials intact.

If a resource or an instrument checked out to you is lost, stolen, or damaged, you are expected to replace it as soon as possible. If you fail to do so before the end of the semester, you will receive an Incomplete for this course.

Assignments

All written work must be typewritten. Assignments that require music notation may be neatly printed, though notation software is preferred. Please use university-level spelling, punctuation, and grammar, and head your papers with your name, the assignment number, and the due date.

In most cases, homework assignments will consist of creating short lessons, and teaching these lessons to your peers in class. You will teach these lessons as if you were teaching elementary-aged children. You will write a lesson plan in the correct format for every lesson you teach in class. The typed lesson plan is your homework grade, and the actual teaching of the lesson is your class work grade.

KEEP ALL ASSIGNMENTS ON YOUR COMPUTER. You will turn in a copy of your assignment on the day it is due, and I will add any corrections or ideas. You will then correct your assignment, so that it is ready to be shared with your classmates and placed in their resource notebooks.

Grading System

In-Class Performance, Teaching, and Discussion: 40% of total grade

Homework Assignments: 20%

Assessments: 40%

90 - 100	= A
80 - 89	= B
70 - 79	= C
60 - 69	= D
59 ↓	= F

Academic Honesty

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

NOTICE!

- Each class period, I will distribute the outline for that day's class and any assignments that will be due the following class.
- Students are encouraged to seek out the instructor for assignment clarification and/or personal assistance.
- You can receive extra points for attending and actively participating in workshops with elementary emphasis, such as those provided by the North Texas Chapter of AOSA, the Kodaly Educators of Texas, and TMEA.
- Keep in mind that your aptitude in this course may determine if you are approved for student teaching. Because student teachers are representatives of this university, I will only recommend those with excellent teaching skills, musicianship, high standards, and a strong work ethic. This could determine your graduation date.
- This syllabus is subject to be amended at any time.