Course Information
Fall Term
Marching Band Techniques
MUE346 – Section 101
Course Format: Web-enhanced
Monday 4:00-6:00pm
Laidlaw Performing Arts Building - Room CR 1106

Instructor Information
Dr. Michael Phillips
(251) 460-7472
michaelphillips@southalabama.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Laidlaw Performing Arts Building Room 1071

Course Description
Marching Band Techniques is designed to provide an overview of the knowledge and skills necessary to organize, administer, implement, and teach a marching band program as part of the K-12 music curriculum. Topics discussed will cover but are not limited to: show design, music selection, uniforms and equipment, rehearsal planning, marching techniques and fundamentals, budget development, practices and policies, philosophy, and curriculum. During the course of this semester, a combination of written and reading assignments, group projects, in-class discussions, individual projects, lectures, and field experiences will be used to best prepare the aspiring music educator for his/her time in the music classroom and as a member of the education community.

Course Topical Outline
- Style and Philosophy of the marching band activity in music education.
- Marching band Vs Parade Band
- Resources supporting the marching arts activity
- Technique & Style of marching band instruction
- Music Selections, Arranging, and Copyright
- Drum Line
- Color Guard
- Show Design
- Drill Design
- Purchasing and designing uniforms, equipment, and more
- Festivals, Adjudication, MPA, and Ratings
- Organizing resources for future projects, jobs, and opportunities

Course Goals and Objectives
1. To develop an understanding/application of the philosophy and values of the marching band program and the function of this performance genre in different educational settings
2. To understand the different types and styles of marching bands and band programs
3. To develop skills in making music selections and basic arranging skills necessary to facilitate contemporary marching, pep, and field shows.
4. To develop conceptual, design, and writing skills necessary to create a contemporary marching band show
5. To cultivate an understanding of and apply the skills necessary to develop, instruct, and manage the marching band program.
6. To develop a set of administrative and organizational skills necessary for running a marching band as part of the music program
7. To begin a professional and productive dialogue through discussion and debate among colleagues, focusing on a variety of topics related to the contemporary band program
8. To create a body of resources that will provide information and guidance for the aspiring music educator as he/she enters the field
Course Pre-requisites
Music Theory; Music Major/ Minor or by instructor approval.

Course Materials:
2. 3-ring binder (at least 1 ½“)
3. Notebook to include inside binder.
4. Writing Utensils
5. USB Drive, Google Drive, Drop Box Account
6. File box or accordion folder (for final portfolio)
7. Laptop that meets requirements of software used in course and Internet capable.
8. Pyware College Subscription (six month subscription costs ~$75.00 and is renewable)
9. Finale or other natation software for arranging music (Sibelius, Musescore)
10. Audacity for sound editing (if needed) (Free download)

Class Attendance Policy
Attendance and participation are integral parts of this course and necessary for professional development – 100% attendance and participation is expected. Any absences or conflicts must be discussed with the instructor in advance – unless an emergency occurs. It is expected that each student come to class prepared with completed assignments as well as with knowledge, ideas, and/or questions for discussion and group learning.

As musicians and educators we must be able to share our ideas and consider those of others in order to better understand what, why, and how we teach. Each class will contain parts of lecture and discussion. As aspiring educators, you must allow for every possible opportunity to become a better teacher and individual. Through the exchange of ideas, information, and opinions, this will be possible. In addition to creating a productive classroom atmosphere, this process will also potentially play an important part in helping you become an effective professional – observing, learning from, and working with your colleagues.

Being on time for class is being seating and ready to contribute at the start time of class. Late arrivals exceeding two occurrences will result in the drop of a letter grade in the class.

You can also review the ‘Attendance and Absences Policy’, in the Undergraduate Academic Policies and Procedures section of the Undergraduate and Graduate Bulletin for attendance and absences policy
Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submit online 300 word Philosophy</td>
<td>Write a 300-word philosophy on the role and value of marching band in the band curriculum. Support your philosophy with 3 articles. Attach these articles to your paper and include them as references in your document.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resources for marching activities</td>
<td>Throughout the semester will discuss multiple vendors, products, and resources. Develop an exhaustive list of these resources that are useful for the marching activities. Include websites, catalogs, flyers, etc. This will be collected in your portfolio for class and handed in on the indicated date. It will be handed in again at the end of the course per updated comments on first submission.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Tech &amp; Style Assignment</td>
<td>Develop specific instructions on how to teach: attention, parade rest, horns up, horn down, mark time, march, halt, as well as posture and marching style. Each of these will be specifically written and aurally taught to a group in class. Remember to write this as specific as possible whereas someone else could read it and teach from it. The style of marching is your choice.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show Design Project</td>
<td>You will be assigned a specific instrumentation and membership for &quot;your&quot; marching band. For this band, and the program you have established, you will select music, and create a show concept. As part of this process and in addition to the drill, you will also include justification of music selection, uniform selection, color guard uniform selection, flag and/or prop selection, and any other additional/supporting information that clearly describes this concept.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drill Design</td>
<td>For the sake of learning how to write drill, a number of small drill-writing projects will be assigned, taking you from beginning formations to transitions and eventually a multiple-set drill design. These assignments will also serve as lab projects for the purpose of learning how to use the computer-aided drill design software, Pyware. You will chart the opener drill for your show. For this project, you will devise a labeling system (symbols and numbers), create a key, use different colors for each section or group (either by instrument or family (ww/brass/perc), include instructions on each page and label each set. A student subscription of Pyware will be available to purchase from the Pyware website (<a href="http://www.pyware.com">www.pyware.com</a>).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Design a uniform with complete spec and cost analysis</td>
<td>Design a uniform based on the use for you ideal school. This must include an image and a description of any feature that is readily apparent yet is an effective feature of the uniform. Provide a cost analysis for this complete uniform.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select 3 selection for a Memorial Day Parade</td>
<td>Find three music arrangements you would use in a Memorial Day parade. Include Title, Composer, Arranger, Publisher, and sample recordings if possible.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrange a short piece of pep or marching band music</td>
<td>Using a notation program arrange a piece for pep band. The score must include percussion, but it does not have to be a completed percussion part for this assignment. A complete score in print will be turned in.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop a short guard routine</td>
<td>Develop a guard route using a flag, weapon, and/or body movement. You will teach this routine to a small group.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Add percussion to your pep piece</td>
<td>Add percussion parts to your pep score.</td>
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Various assignments and projects will be given throughout the semester. These will include, but will not be limited to: classroom and online discussions and presentations, music selections and analysis, drill design, article/book reviews, listening/viewing assignments, observations, resource collection and portfolio development, basic show design and planning, etc. All written assignments are to be prepared using Microsoft Word or Excel (depending upon criteria) and if multiple pages, they MUST BE STAPLED!!!
Projects
Handbook Project
You will create a handbook for your proposed band program. This project is designed to encourage thought and discussion about your curriculum, schedule, policies, and procedures. The handbook will include, but is not limited to: brief history of the band program, letter to parents, students and administrations, statement of marching band philosophy, calendar of events for season (games, performances, rehearsals, competitions, meetings and trips), pre-season band camp schedule, grading and attendance policy and any other related information.

Final Portfolio
During the course of the semester, you are to collect information, materials, catalogs, supplemental material and all other products or resources pertaining to marching band. This information is to be compiled into a portfolio, including ALL projects and assignments for this course to be submitted at the conclusion of the semester. Upon the conclusion of this course, and return of your completed portfolio, you will have a well-organized and complete resource that will be of benefit to you in the future.

Other Assignments
• Drill Writing – set/formation creation projects
• Pyware & Notation Updates & Presentation
• Uniform/Visual Design Project
• Music Selection, Analysis, and arranging
• Weekly Video Show & Tell: Video Presentation
• Marching and Instruction Techniques
• Listening Assignments
• Observations
• Field Experiences / Guest Lectures

IMPORTANT NOTE: All assignments ARE DUE. If not submitted by the due date, no credit will be given. HOWEVER, the document/project must still be completed and turned in.

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of its instructor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Reading Assignment for following class</th>
<th>Introduction/Course Readiness</th>
<th>Software needed for class</th>
<th>History... Parade Band before Field Band</th>
<th>Philosophy</th>
<th>Homework</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug 18</td>
<td>Introduction/Course Readiness</td>
<td>Software needed for class</td>
<td>History... Parade Band before Field Band</td>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>300 word Philosophy Search Out 3 Handbooks for band programs</td>
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<td>Aug 25</td>
<td>The marching band as a classroom... the tools and resources</td>
<td>Review Philosophies Discussion of handbooks</td>
<td>Pyware Tutorial</td>
<td>Video Presentation</td>
<td>Resources for marching activities Handbook Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 1</td>
<td>Pyware Updates &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>Video Presentation</td>
<td>Marching Techniques &amp; Styles Drill Terms</td>
<td>(Discussion Handbook Project)</td>
<td>Basic Tech &amp; Style Assignment Study Drill Terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Resources/Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 8</td>
<td>Pyware Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Teaching Techniques &amp; Styles (Discussion Handbook Project)</td>
<td>Teaching Basics</td>
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<td>Sept 15</td>
<td>Pyware Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Resources &amp; Materials for the marching band Teaching Techniques &amp; Styles Drill Terms Quiz</td>
<td>Collecting Resources Portfolio</td>
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<td>Sept 22</td>
<td>Read: Show Planning Pyware Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Handbook Project Due (1)</td>
<td>Design a uniform with complete spec and cost analysis</td>
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<td>Sept 29</td>
<td>Read: Drill Design Pyware Updates &amp; Presentation Academic Purchasing Working with Venders The Bid Process</td>
<td>Uniform Design Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 6</td>
<td>Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Notation Software Selecting Music and Resources</td>
<td>Select 3 selection for a Memorial Day Parade</td>
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<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>Read: The Percussion Section Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Memorial Day Music Instrumentation in the marching band... “to sax or not to sax” Arranging for the marching band</td>
<td>Arrange a short piece of pep or marching band</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 20</td>
<td>Read: The Color Guard Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Experiencing the Drum Line Percussion and music notation software</td>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
<td>Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Experiencing the Guard</td>
<td>Pep Piece Due in Score form.</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
<td>Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Winter Guard</td>
<td>Develop a short guard routine to demonstrate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>Read: Marching Band Evaluation Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Winter Drum Line Handbook Project Due (2)</td>
<td>Add percussion to your pep piece.</td>
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<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Guard Routines Due Revisit Philosophy and discuss Competition Vs Non Competitive</td>
<td>The Role of DCI, DCA, WGI in the education of students in the marching arts Resources Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 24</td>
<td>Read: The Band Boosters Pyware &amp; Notation Updates &amp; Presentation Video Presentation Show Design: Know your audience History of Design and Style</td>
<td>All Projects Handed in before break.</td>
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</table>
Dec 1  |  **Class Presentations**  |  Show Design  |  Opener: Drill and music  |  Presentation of a budget  

Dec 8  |  **Class Presentations**  |  Show Design  |  Opener: Drill and music  |  Presentation of a budget  

Dec 11 |  **Class Presentations**  |  Show Design  |  Opener: Drill and music  |  Presentation of a budget  

All assignments ARE DUE. If not submitted by the due date, no credit will be given. HOWEVER, the document/project must still be completed and turned in as part of the final portfolio.

**Grading**
- Attendance and Participation: 25%
- Assignments: 50%
- Projects: 25%
- A=90% & above, B= 80% - 89%, C= 70% - 79%, D= 60% - 69%, F = 59% or Below
- Extra credit: Will be announced in class as opportunities occur

**Changes in Course Requirements**
Not all classes’ progress at the same rate thus course requirements might have to be modified as circumstances dictate. You will be given notice if the course requirements need to be changed.

**Academic Disruption Policy**
The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Academic Disruption is found in The Lowdown, the student handbook.

[http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml](http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicdisruption.shtml): Disruptive academic behavior is defined as individual or group conduct that interrupts or interferes with any educational activity or environment, infringes upon the rights and privileges of others, results in or threatens the destruction of property and/or is otherwise prejudicial to the maintenance of order in an academic environment. 
You are expected to be cordial, courteous and respectful of faculty members and fellow students.

No electronic communication devices are to be used in class other than for the use of class objectives that are occurring at the time.

**Student Academic Conduct Policy**
The University of South Alabama’s policy regarding Student Academic Conduct Policy is found in The Lowdown [http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml](http://www.southalabama.edu/lowdown/academicconductpolicy.shtml): The University of South Alabama is a community of scholars in which the ideals of freedom of inquiry, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of the individual are sustained. The University is committed to supporting the exercise of any right guaranteed to individuals by the Constitution and the Code of Alabama and to educating students relative to their responsibilities.

Plagiarism is not acceptable and will result in an immediate dismissal from class and university proceedings. Students may learn about the meaning of plagiarism and how to avoid it at the following link: [http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/instruction/plagiarismforstudents.html](http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/instruction/plagiarismforstudents.html).

**Students With Disabilities**
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodations. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from the Office of Special Student Services. OSSS is located at 5828 Old Shell Road at Jaguar Drive, (251-460-7212).
Course and Teacher Evaluation

Student input for course improvement and evaluations are taken seriously and do effect change.

Course Supplemental material and resources:

- YouTube, banddirector.com, DCI network, marching.com and other internet sources.
- “Marching Band Techniques” by Patrick Dunnigan
- “The System: Marching Band Methods” by Gary Smith
- Additional resources will be announced and provided in class.

Additional Recommendations

- Participation in JMB marching program
- Attending marching festivals
- Attending marching rehearsals of various programs
- Watch DCI, WGI programs and videos

Online Writing Support

The University of South Alabama provides online writing tutoring services through SMARTTHINKING, an online tutoring service. SMARTTHINKING is available at http://services.smarthinking.com. Students may enter the site by logging on with their Jag number and using the last four digits of the social security number as the password. For log-on problems, technical questions and/or on-campus writing assistance, contact the USA Writing Center at 251-460-6480 or e-mail csaint-paul@usouthal.edu.

Information about the University Writing Center and Online Writing Lab can be found online at http://www.southalabama.edu/univlib/instruction/antiplagiarism/writinghelp.html.