

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA SYLLABUS

COURSE: Marching Band Techniques, MUE 346
LOCATION: Laidlaw Performing Arts Center 1120
INSTRUCTOR: Mr. Ward Miller
CONTACT: Office Phone: 461-1793
E-Mail: rwmiller@usouthal.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM, or by appointment, in Laidlaw 1073
TEXTS: The Complete Marching Band Resource Manual: Techniques and Materials for Teaching, Drill Design, and Music Arranging by Wayne Bailey
Techniques of Marching Band Show Designing by Dan Ryder
MATERIALS:

1. Student Membership in AMEA/MENC \$22.00
2. Subscription to *The Instrumentalist* \$11.00
3. Pyware 3D Java Drill Software Student Subscription \$75.00 (optional)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This offering is intended as a techniques course emphasizing the knowledge and skills necessary for the development of marching band shows designed for the contemporary high school band. Drill design and implementation is the primary focus.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF INTENT

The main objective of this course is to bring students to a satisfactory level of competence in regard to:

1. Music selection for the contemporary high school marching band,
2. Creative development and implementation of contemporary drill,
3. Understanding the administrative aspects of directing a high school marching band,
4. Basic computer-assisted drill design using Pyware Java 3D.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (8/22) - **Discuss:** Introduction, Course Objectives and Requirements. Begin working Pyware Tutorial

Week 2 (8/29) - **Discuss:** *Marching Band History, Philosophy, and Terminology*
Due in Class: Chapter 1 (pp. 3-11). MENC and *Instrumentalist* subscriptions. Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 1

Week 3 (9/5) - **Discuss:** *Budgeting for the Marching Band, Contracting outside Arrangers and Technicians*
Due in Class: Pyware 3D Java Tutorial Completed. Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 2.

Week 4 (9/12) - **Discuss:** *The Practice Field as Classroom - Classroom Management and Rehearsal Techniques. Health and environmental concerns in outdoor rehearsals.* Schedule first high school marching band rehearsal observation.
Due in Class: Chapter 5 (pp. 81-93). Sample Marching Band Budget. Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 3.

Week 5 (9/19) - **Discuss:** *Marching Band Instrumentation and Arranging Concerns.* Schedule second high school marching band rehearsal observation.
Due in Class: Chapter 4 (pp. 65-77) Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 4. High School marching band Rehearsal Observation #1.

Week 6 (9/26) - **Discuss:** *Planning a Marching Band Show,*
Due in Class: Chapter 3 (pp. 56-64). Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 5

Week 7 (10/3) - **Discuss:** *Planning and Executing a Band Camp*
Due in Class: Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 6. Marching Show Plan. Sample Band Camp Schedule and Letter to Parents. Count Diagram for Opener. High School marching band Rehearsal Observation #2

Week 8 (10/10) - **Discuss:** *Making Drill Design Concepts Work.* Schedule final high school marching band rehearsal/competition observation.
Due in Class: Chapter 2 (pp.12-55). Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 7. Count Diagram for Middle Show Number.

Week 9 (10/17) - **Discuss:** *Staging and Field Coverage Techniques*
Due in Class: Chapter 2 (pp.12-55). Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 8.

- Week 10 (10/24) - **Discuss:** *Props, Skits, and other Special Effects in a Marching Band Show*
Due in Class: Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 9.
- Week 11 (10/31) - **Discuss:** *Percussion Techniques and Hardware* with Guest Lecturer Mr. Mike Sammons
Due in Class: Chapter 8 (pp.117-138). Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 10. Updated Sample Band Budget with Colorguard items added. Count Diagram for Show Closer.
- Week 12 (11/7) - **Discuss:** *Colorguard Techniques, Hardware, and Placement* with Guest Lecturer TBA
Due in Class: Chapter 7 (pp. 101-116). Be ready to discuss handouts from Week 11. Updated Sample Band Budget with Percussion Items
- Week 13 (11/14) - **Discuss:** Work on Final Projects
Due in Class: Final Marching Band Rehearsal/Competition Observation
- Week 14 (11/21) - **Discuss:** Work on Final Projects. Wrap-up of course materials and concepts.
Due in Class:
- Week 15 (11/28) - No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday. Work on your final project.
- No Comprehensive Final; Final Project Due - Friday, December 5 by 5:00 p.m.**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Project Assignments. (750 pts., 75% of final grade)

1. MENC and *Instrumentalist* Subscriptions, 50 pts.
 - a. MENC, 30 pts.
 - b. *Instrumentalist*, 20 pts.
2. Completed Pyware Tutorial, 100 pts.
3. Marching Band Budget, 50 pts.
 - a. Preliminary Budget, 30 pts.
 - b. Budget with addition of Colorguard items, 10 pts.
 - c. Final budget with addition of Percussion items, 10 pts.
4. High School Band Rehearsal Observation #1, 100 pts.
5. Show Planning – Show Plan, 50 pts.
 - a. Music selected
6. Band Camp Schedule and Plan with Letter to Parents, 50 pts.
7. High School Band Rehearsal Observation #2, 100 pts.
8. Show Planning – Count Diagram for Opener, 50 pts.
 - a. 9-14 sets
9. Show Planning – Count Diagram for Middle Number, 50 pts.
 - a. 4-7 sets
10. Show Planning – Count Diagram for Closer, 50 pts.
 - a. 8-13 sets
11. Final High School Band Rehearsal/Competition Observation, 100 pts.

Final Project, (250 pts., 25% of final grade)

12. Completed Marching Band Show Drill
 - a. Numbers and instrumentation will be assigned
 - b. 21-34 sets
 - c. Including instructions, counts, props (optional), and synced audio

If modifications to the project schedule are necessary, ample prior notification will be given. Attendance variations and late work will be reflected in grading. All work may be e-mailed to the instructor, given prior notice and instruction.

FINAL GRADE

The final grade will be arrived at by averaging the grades from the course requirements listed above and based on the following grading scale:

900 – 1000 points = A
800 - 899 points = B
700 - 799 points = C
600 - 699 points = D
0 - 599 points = F

ACCOMODATIONS

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services 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 me and provide certification from the Disability Services (Office of Special Students Services). The Office of Special Students Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270, Phone 460-7212.

Students will be given adequate notification in writing prior to any changes in course requirements and/or expectations.