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MUSE 491.05: Marching Band Techniques

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Marching Band Techniques

MUSE 491, Section 05 Syllabus

Monday & Wednesday 8:10am – 9:00am

Music Bldg., Room 105

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Griggs

Office: Music Bldg., Room 3

Phone: 370-8730

E-Mail: kevin.griggs@umontana.edu

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Materials:

1. 3-ring binder with paper for notes.
2. Student copy of Pyware 3D drill software. This program is available for download at www.pyware.com/demodownload.html - Call Pyware's College Subscription Service at 800-222-7536 to purchase the 6 month subscription with a credit card for \$75.00. Installation and activation information will then be sent to you. Pyware's College Subscription Service is available between 9am - 5pm CST weekdays. Once approved, you will receive an activation code to activate your installation of 3D. **Each student must have their own copy of this program.** There is far too much to learn and practice to be able to share a copy on a single computer.
3. Drill charting paper (available from instructor)
4. Writing Utensils: Pencils, Colored Pencils, Colored Pens/Markers, Eraser.
5. CD, DVD, Thumb Drive or other method of storing and transferring computer files. Moodle will be used for assignment information and may also be used for submission of completed assignments or files.

Course Description:

MUSE 491: Marching Band Techniques is designed to provide an overview of the skills and knowledge needed to organize, administer, implement, plan and teach a marching band program as part of the K-12 music curriculum. Topics discussed will cover: show design, music selection, rehearsal planning, marching techniques and fundamentals, equipment management, budget development, travel planning, practices and policies, philosophy and curriculum development.

Course Objectives:

1. To understand the philosophy and values of the marching band program and the function of this performance genre in different educational settings and as part of a music program
2. To develop the ability to organize and administer the contemporary marching band as part of the overall music curriculum
3. To understand the different forms and styles of marching bands
4. To develop writing and design skills necessary to create a marching band show
5. To cultivate an understanding of the elements involved in developing, teaching, and if necessary, creating a marching band program
6. To practice essential skills such as travel planning, handbook creation, equipment purchase and inventory, drill learning techniques and music selection

Attendance:

Class attendance and participation is an *integral* part of this course. As musicians and educators we must be able to share our ideas and consider others in order to better understand what, why and how we teach. We will be exploring material each day that will assist you in completing your assignments. Attendance at all class meetings is required. Any absences or conflicts must be discussed with the instructor in advance. In the event of an emergency that prevents you from advance notice, contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Grading:

Attendance and Participation: **15%**

Projects and Assignments: **50%**

Final Portfolio: **35%**

Assignments:

Various assignments and projects will be given during the course. These will include lesson plans, classroom instruction and demonstration, music selection and programming, article/book reviews, listening/viewing assignments, materials collection and portfolio development, basic show design and planning, etc. Whenever possible, written assignments should be typewritten or word processed. You will need access to a computer for most of the assignments. If you do not have access, please contact the instructor immediately.

Show Design Project:

You will be assigned a specific instrumentation and membership for “your” marching band. You will **hand-chart** five (5) drill sets to correspond with the opening section of your selected music (to be determined from a list of choices) for the opener of your marching band show. These initial hand-charted sets will be used in the “Final Show Project” below. 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 addition/supporting information.

Proposed Trip Project:

You will use the specific instrumentation and membership for “your” marching band. You will create a budget and itinerary for a marching band trip, of your choice, that will include: transportation costs and information, housing costs and information, equipment needs and logistics, timeline and travel itinerary, student information and hand-outs, parent information and hand-outs, travel guidelines and any additional/supplementary information.

Handbook Project:

You will create a curriculum handbook for your proposed band program. This document is to include: a brief history of the band program, letter to parents, students and administrators, 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. (uniform policy, behavior, etc.)

New Band Project:

You will need to research the necessary information to equip and create a marching band in a school that does not currently have one. You will be given a fixed budget with which you must acquire instruments, uniforms, podiums, and other equipment to be discussed in class. Your final draft must be a document that is suitable to present to a school or district administration to begin outfitting your new band.

Budget Project:

Combining the information you collected from completing your show design and proposed trip, along with the necessary expenditures of a marching band program, create a proposed budget for your program. This document is to include all expenses necessary to operate your program for the year. Outlined should be items, description and estimated costs. This project is to be submitted with the final portfolio.

Final Show Project:

You will transfer your hand-charted show design project using Pyware 3D Java software and submit a completed, computer-aided drill design for the entire opener. (See information on obtaining a copy of this program above.) This final project will be submitted to the instructor electronically through e-mail, thumb drive, CD, Moodle or some other acceptable media.

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 return of the portfolio and the conclusion of the course, you will have an organized resource that will be of benefit to you in the future.

Academic Integrity

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

Communication

When outside of class communication is necessary, I will use the Moodle class email list to send messages. This will send a message to your (first.last)@umontana.edu or (first.last)@umconnect.edu account. If you do not check this account regularly, you can forward messages received in your university account to your private email account.

Other

Additional information or minor changes may need to be made to this syllabus. If necessary, the instructor will give you as much advance notice as possible.