

Music 31•399 Special Topics

Marching Band Techniques

2 credit hours

Interim, 2001

Syllabus

Class Time: M, W, Th 5:00-8:00 PM, MFAC 102

Instructor: Prof. William R. Hall

office: MFAC 106

office phone: 426-7902

home phone: 533-1013

email: whall@acad2.dana.edu

office hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of music arranging and drill writing for the contemporary marching band. Teaching methodologies of basic marching maneuvers and drill rehearsing will be covered. The course will also cover music selection and show design.

Prerequisite: Completion of Music 215 or with permission of instructor.

Intended Outcomes:

1. The student will be able to select music appropriate for high school marching band.
2. The student will be able to arrange selected music for marching band.
3. The student will understand basic marching maneuvers and be able to teach them.
4. The student will be able to write a field show suitable for football half-time performance.
5. The student will demonstrate understanding of the fundamentals of competition show design.
6. the student will demonstrate understanding of techniques for rehearsing field drills.

Teaching Methodologies:

Instructor Lecture
Videotaped performances of selected marching bands
Student Reading and Reflecting
Student Music Arranging Projects
Student Drill Writing Projects

Required Materials:

Ryder, D. (1996). Techniques of marching band show designing, W. M. Forsythe & D. M. Ryder, eds.. Austin, TX: Dan Ryder Field Drills.

Shellahamer, B., Swearingen, J., & Woods, J. (1986). The marching band program: principles and practices. Oskaloosa, IA: C. L. Barnhouse.

French Curve Set
Divider and Compass Set
Template

Assessment Tools:

1. Chorale/Alma Mater Arrangement (25%). The student will arrange a standard 16 measure hymn/chorale suitable for standard marching band instrumentation. Grading rubric to follow.

2. Football Pregame Show Drill (25%). The student will write an original 5 formation show. Grading rubric to follow.

3. Competition Drill (25%). The student will write an original 10-set drill appropriate for marching competition. Grading rubric to follow.

5. Exam (10%). Material from readings to be assessed by standard exam at the final.

6. Discussion (15%). Student input and discussion of assigned readings will be evaluated as a part of the final grade. Grading rubric to follow.

Attendance Policy: As a professional course in the student's major, the student is expected to attend class sessions. Valuable experience and involvement with teaching methodologies will be lost by absence.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of dishonesty and cheating are not consistent with professional behavior. Violators will be given a failing grade. See Dana College's policy on page 21 of the College Catalog.

Units for Marching Band Techniques

Thurs Jan 4 - Philosophy of Marching Band (SSW), Competition (SSW), Marching Band Styles (SSW), Auxiliary Units (SSW), Teaching Marching Fundamentals (SSW),
Assignment: Design a set of fundamentals & teach them to the class.

Mon Jan 8 - **Present/Teach Fundamentals**, Introduction to Charting Drills, Designing a Drill by Hand (Ryder), Videos of Band Shows, Show Design Principles (SSW), Show Planning (Ryder).

Assignment: Begin pregame show drill assignment

Wed Jan 10 - Selecting Music (SSW), analyzing the Music (Ryder), Introduction to Marching Band Arranging (transpositions, ranges tessituras, technique).

Assignment: Begin the chorale/alma mater assignment

Thurs Jan 11 - , Designing the First Page of the Show (Ryder), Types of Formations (Ryder), Types of Transitions (Ryder).

In class work on arranging and pregame drill assignments.

Mon Jan 15 - **Pregame Show Assignment Due** , Writing Transitions (Ryder), Marching Maneuvers for Transitions (Ryder), Movements in Transitions (Ryder), Selection of music for competition drill assignment, working on musical/visual analysis, Writing the First Page of Drill .

Assignment: Begin Competition Drill

Wed Jan 17 - **Chorale/Alma Mater Assignment Due**, Videos of Marching Bands, in class work on competition drill.

Thurs Jan 18 - Teaching the Drills (Ryder), Rehearsing the Show (SSW), Planning for Organization (SSW), Developing a Personal Philosophy of Marching Band (SSW). in-class work on arrangements and drills.

Mon Jan 22 - **Chorale/Alma Mater Arrangement Due**, review for exam, Videos of Marching Bands, in class work on competition drill.

Wed Jan 24 - **Competition Drill Due, Exam.**