

MUL 4460 - Percussion Literature, Spring 2026

School of Music, University of Florida

Syllabus subject to change at instructor's discretion

Instructor: Dr. Danielle Moreau
Contact: dmoreau@ufl.edu | MUB 341
Office Hours: by appointment only
Class meeting: to be determined
Required textbook: *course materials will be provided by instructor*

Course Overview and Purpose

Percussion Literature is designed to advance students' knowledge of percussion history and landmark compositions relating to performance and pedagogy. It is required for performance majors and offered as an elective course for those seeking another music degree. Reference texts, chronological developments, solo repertoire, and chamber works will be discussed. Significant composers and advancements in technology will be highlighted for their impact on the repertoire.

Course Expectations

Students are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor and within this syllabus. Students may only participate in classes if they are registered officially or approved to audit with evidence of having paid audit fees. Students must attend all sessions and complete class work on time and in full before class meetings. Unless for reasons listed below, late work will not be accepted. The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course. Doing so without instructor consent is in violation of the university Honor Code.

Overview of Course Schedule

Week 1: Course Introductions; Reference Texts and Resources
Week 2-4: The Antiquity through Mid-20th Century Developments
Week 5-6: Percussion Ensemble and Concerti Literature
Week 7-8: Wood that Sings – Works for Solo Marimba; The Canon of Contemporary Vibraphone
Week 9: Spring Break
Week 10-11: The Solo Timpanist; Snare Drum Literature; The Multi-Percussionist
Week 12: Works for Percussion and Electronics
Week 13: Theatre, Found, and The Others
Week 14: Final Presentations

Attendance

Attendance policies can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Each unexcused absence will result in a 5% deduction from the student's final grade. After due warning, an instructor can prohibit further attendance and subsequently assign a failing grade for excessive absences.

Grade Determinate

Canvas Assignments – 30% (six total, 5% each)

Students will be assigned readings, listenings, or similar work in preparation for class meetings.

These are to be submitted via Canvas. Details will be provided during the first class.

Class Participation – 10%

Students will actively engage with course content via discussion during each class meeting.

Instructor will evaluate student participation at the end of each class.

Unit Presentations – 30% (three total, 10% each)

Students will present on one piece within the canon for modules 3-5. Works will be suggested by the instructor and selected by the student. Details will be discussed during the first class and solidified as the semester progresses.

Final Presentation – 15%

Students will present on one topic of their choice based on course material. Topics must be approved by the instructor. More information will be provided as the semester progresses.

Performance Guide – 15%

Students will create a performance guide of one work within our repertoire related to your final presentation topic. Guides will include performance practices, pedagogical strategies, and other resources. More information will be provided as the semester progresses.

Grading Scale

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	59 and below

Academic Policies and Resources

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:

<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>