McLennan COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

APPLIED COMMERCIAL MUSIC: PERCUSSION

MUSP 2149

COURSE SYLLABUS

Jonathan Kutz

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html on any changes to these guidelines.

APPLIED COMMERCIAL MUSIC: PERCUSSION
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Course Description:

Provides private instruction on drum set with goals related to commercial music---the performance of jazz, rock, latin, country, hip hop, gospel, etc. The student will demonstrate proficiency in commercial music repertoire and technique; develop a professional, disciplined approach in performance skills; and present a juried performance for faculty.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Corequisite: concurrent enrollment in a Commercial Music Ensemble (jazz, rock, improv, ccm, hip hop, vocal tech) – exceptions must be approved by program director. If you don't have a drum set at home we have 2 drum set practice rooms with kits in them available for you to use 7 days a week! You simply have to visit the MCC physical plant after week one of the semester to get your card swiped.

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Your success will be greatly enhanced if you have had some kind of previous instruction such as high school band or drum lessons. If I have too many students sign up, I must audition and take the most qualified. MIC majors are my main priority and this varies by semester so by all means, please sign up. Daily practice is a must when learning new coordination skills. Two drum set practice rooms are available in the PAC building, so no excuses!

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Jonathan Kutz
MCC E-mail: jkutz@mclennan.edu
Office Phone Number: 299 8110
Office Location: MTA 115
Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA
Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Progressive Groove Studies Vol. 1-3 by Jonathan Kutz
MCC Percussion Primer by Jonathan Kutz (My books are available in my office for free!)
Survival Guide for the Modern Drummer by Jim Riley

MCC Bookstore Website: http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Drum lessons are one hour a week at a time that is agreeable to the both of us. Since this is a one on one lesson, you will have my undivided attention to help assist you in your musical quest. Basically, I assign you an assignment, you go home and practice. If you learn it well enough, I can then assign you more new material. Your goal should be to get new material each week. I grade each lesson and that will make up your final grade as well as a final playing exam.

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Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Drum Set Lesson Objectives;

-To learn to read music notation so that you can become your own teacher.

-To achieve enough hand technique to achieve intermediate to advanced levels of success.

-To achieve adequate hand technique to play in a rudimental style and learn its application to the drum set.

-To learn a variety of musical styles that will help you be successful in today's music field. Styles include rock, jazz, blues, country, latin and world styles.

- To learn a variety of different grooves that stress 4 way coordination skills in different styles such as rock, jazz, blues, country, latin and world styles.

-To become familiar with the great songs/ drummers of music history. Styles include, jazz, rock, blues, country, and metal. We will use transcriptions and play certain great songs, note for note.

-To work on material that you will play with a commercial music ensemble.

Course Outline or Schedule:

This is all based on the student's entrance level. I can start students from the beginning or start a student from whatever level they are on. First, I teach music reading and hand conditioners/warm-ups. From there we will move to the drumset and start learning coordination patterns in rock, jazz, blues and latin styles. From there we add in hand/foot combinations, accent studies and kit application, and play-alongs that cover various styles.

I teach from a song based curriculum in which I have Spotify playlists that range from super easy to complex. The songs span all styles and time periods. We will learn a song at the end of the first lesson. Can you keep a simple beat for 3 minutes without missing a beat? It's much harder than it sounds…Eventually we will learn classic drum tracks and read the transcription for an exact reproduction of the drum part to achieve insights to their greatness.

At the beginning of the semester, I will provide you with the necessary books and we will formulate a weekly assignment plan to get you rapidly moving along.

Lessons will focus on:

--- hand development on the pad

---music reading (if necessary)

---coordination exercises on the drumset in rock and jazz styles

---songs you're learning in ensembles and classic drum tracks

--- different styles: jazz, brushes, latin, blues shuffles. See Jim Riley book for more examples…

Course Grading Information:

Each weekly lesson is graded. It is based on the amount of improvement you have made from the previous week. A well prepared lesson will equal a good grade and furthermore, you will receive

new material to learn! A final performance is required and will be picked 6 weeks from the end of the semester. This can be picked by the student or teacher. This performance is called a "jury" and is made of a committee of music faculty members who will listen to you play and assign a grade.

Grades will be based on successful completion of:

1. Performance of assigned material for each lesson. Lessons will be graded as follows:
   A = all assignments performed at an exceptional level and up to your ability, exceptional attitude and etiquette, all assigned material covered, exceptional improvement.
   B = all assignments performed at a good level, good attitude and etiquette, most assigned material covered, good improvement.
   C = all assignments performed at an average level, average attitude and etiquette, adequate assigned material covered, average improvement.
   D = all assignments performed at a poor level, poor attitude and etiquette, unacceptable amount of assigned material covered, poor improvement.
   F = unexcused or missed lesson, unacceptable preparation, unacceptable attitude and etiquette, unacceptable amount of assigned material covered, unacceptable improvement. Dismissed from lesson or unexcused absence.
   2. Performance in ensemble (optional for non-majors)
   3. Performance at Juries (optional for non-majors)
   4. Consistent attendance.

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

If you have to miss a lesson, I will only allow make-ups if you contact me before your lesson time. If I don't hear from you, I am not required to let you make it up and have the right to not make it up. If I have to miss I will do my best to inform you in advance and we will make these lessons up.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Most students take lessons because they want to and are highly motivated to learn. It may be a hard task to prepare for 15 lessons but most students I have had do a good job. Please be honest with me, I can tell when you haven't practiced, we could possibly review, work on jury material or work on ensemble material. Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity.

MCC PERCUSSION/DRUM SET POLICIES

The equipment in the rehearsal rooms (PAC 122, 145, Studio and MTA111) is used about 6-8 hours a day. That's an incredible amount of playing that our equipment

endures. In order to keep rehearsals running on time, please follow the guidelines listed below to help keep equipment in good working order.

1.) **Please do not remove any drum set equipment from rooms. Each room has a kit, hardware and 3 cymbal stands. If somebody asks to borrow something, NO! With all the room usage, all equipment stays in that room, except if you get permission from Mr. Kutz. (Yes, you can take it for gigs).**
2.) **The CYMBALS for PAC145 are keep in the cabinet in 145 (See director for lock combo.) The cymbals for 122 are stored in the locked closet across from the studio. The cymbals for MTA 111 are kept in Pat Kelly's office. To avoid theft, please remove cymbals after each use and return them to storage area.**
3.) **Hi Hat clutches are super glued onto hi hat cymbals. Keep them attached and store in each bag.**
4.) **Please make sure all cymbal felts and washers are replaced if lost. The rule for extended cymbal life is to avoid metal to metal contact. Please see Mr. Kutz if any cymbal stands need any parts. All cymbal wing nuts have been removed because they are always being lost.**
5.) **When traveling to gigs, please put all loose cymbal stand and hi hat parts in zippered compartment of cymbal bag. We loose the most parts when traveling to gigs.**
6.) **PLEASE CARRY A DRUM KEY WITH YOU TO TWEAK THE DRUMS AND TO RAISE/LOWER THRONES. If a drum sounds like crap, PLEASE TUNE IT! Whenever I sit down at the kits, they need slight "tweakage". Please avoid any MARCHING style tunings on the kit as that is the wrong situation for very tight tunings.**
7.) **Please loosen any parts before making adjustments. This applies to tom mounts and cymbal stands. Don't grab a tom that is tightened down and forcefully move it. Loosen, then adjust it. Don't over-tighten cymbal stand bolts. That is how they get stripped out. We don't have any spare equipment so please treat it with a little love and respect.**
8.) **We are fortunate enough to finally have great equipment. I need your help to keep it that way. PLEASE REPORT ANY BROKEN EQUIPMENT TO ME AT ONCE, SO IT CAN BE REPAIRED. I am the master repairman!**
9.) **Please be very careful with the bottom heads of snare drums because they are very fragile. Make sure they are on the snare stand properly and be careful with it when traveling. (BTW, black travel cases for the kits are located in room 145 on top of percussion closet.)**
10.) **We have 2 practice rooms here at MCC. They are located across from the recording studio. You can gain access by going to the MCC Physical Plant after week one of a semester. They are not the greatest drum sets, but they work and should be used as much as possible. Keep all this equipment in the rooms, no moving, exchanging or borrowing.**

11.) It is the student's responsibility to have sticks, hot rods and brushes. I will not loan you anything, so please don't come a knockin'. (Unless you have cash or food.) Keep a small towel with you to throw over the snare drum in small rehearsal rooms to balance your sound with the bands. Play the room!

Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy
(https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)
Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

McLennan COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:
Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu
254-299-8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:
We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:
MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:
Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:
Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:
Go to https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:
Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:
In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:
McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails.

Instructional Uses of Email:
Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:
The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

Forwarding Emails:
You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

Disclaimer:
The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.