

Marching Band Techniques
MUE 4700 CRN: 21448
Days/Time: M,W 8:00 – 8:50 Room: FA 264
Instructor: Eric Bradshaw
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Office: Band House

CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Marching fundamentals, drill routines, arranging, organizing, and producing a high school marching band. Includes the use of computer-assisted design techniques.

RATIONALE: Marching Band Techniques will provide the student with the skills necessary to construct and produce high school marching band performances.

TEXT:

Required: *Marching Band: A Field Guide*. Hinton, Tim. Tim Hinton Inc., Orlando, FL. 2005. (Book can be ordered at www.timhinton.com.)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon successful completion of this course the student will

1. Formulate a philosophy of marching band and its place in the total music curriculum.
2. Have the ability to select marching music, with a working knowledge of arranging and teaching music.
3. Select, design, and teach marching drill.
4. Implement materials required to effectively administer the high school marching band program.

All objectives fit within the following: Dept. of Music – Acquire the ability to teach music at various levels to different age groups and in a variety of classroom and ensemble settings; VSU - #6

ASSIGNMENTS/COURSE COMPONENTS: Students will attend and make preparation for:

Assignments and presentations:

Throughout the semester, various assignments and presentations will be assigned by the instructor. The students are responsible for completing and/or presenting their material when assignments are due (as outlined on the calendar to be provided by the instructor). Grades will be lowered for late and/or under prepared / substandard work.

Midterm: There will be a written midterm for this class. The content covered in class will dictate the material that could appear on the midterm. The students are responsible for all topics discussed in class and/or assigned as reading from the required text.

Final Project:

Students will design a marching band drill/show as the final project of this class. The size of the band, length of show, and other details of this assignment will be assigned during the term as a collaboration between the student and instructor. This project will be due at the final regularly scheduled class meeting.

Attendance and Participation:

Because students are being prepared to accept professional duties and responsibilities, attendance requirements are viewed as critical to developing professionalism, and students are expected to attend all classes. Each absence drops your attendance grade by 10%. Any student who misses more than 20% of the class meetings (6 absences) will be subject to receiving a failing grade in the course. This course conforms to the official VSU policy as stated in the VSU Catalogue:

“The University expects that all students shall regularly attend all scheduled class meetings held for instruction or examination...It is recognized that class attendance is essentially a matter between students and their instructors. Instructors must explain their absence policy in the course syllabus. All students are held responsible for knowing the specific attendance requirements as prescribed by their instructors and for the satisfactory make-up work missed by absences. When students are to be absent from class, they should immediately contact the instructor. A student who misses more than 20% of the scheduled classes of a course will be subject to receive a failing grade in the course.”

ASSIGNMENT PERCENTAGES:

Assignments and presentations – 30%

Midterm – 20%

Final Project – 30%

Attendance – 20%

EVALUATION:

You will receive a letter grade and one semester-hour credit for MUE 4700.

Grading Scale: 90 – 100 = A; 80 – 89 = B; 70 -79 = C; 60 – 69 = D; 59 or below = F

COURSE CALENDAR: To be provided by the instructor.

ACCOMMODATIONS STATEMENT:

Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in the Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Any breach of academic integrity will be dealt with by lowering of the grade for the particular assignment. Below is the *VSU Academic Integrity Code*:

“Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the *Student Code of Conduct* and the faculty members’ syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics.”

CLASSROOM DEMEANOR

Students are required to demonstrate good classroom demeanor. There must be no use of non-class related electronic devices (such as cell phones) and no disruptive talking with classmates.

CALENDAR

- 1/7 and 9 Course introduction; What is the role of the marching band?
Introduce drill writing concepts of Pyware
- 1/14 and 16 Marching band philosophies (assignment)
Cont. with Pyware
- 1/21 and 23 (1/21 – No class; MLK Holiday)
Turn-in “Marching Band Philosophy” paper; Effective rehearsal techniques
(chap 5)
- 1/28 and 30 Teaching Fundamentals - playing, marching, and both together; Music
selection – what are your goals and does your audience matter?
Cont. with Pyware and assignment
- 2/4 and 6 Music selection – What makes an arrangement good?; Large vs. small bands;
well known arrangers (assignment); Turn-in Pyware ‘basics’ assignment #1 and
list of arrangers (2/6)
- 2/11 and 13 Planning ahead (chap 3); Turn-in “State of Marching Bands” paper (2/13)
- 2/18 and 20 Other tips to make your band professional (chap 4); Special Advice for
small bands (chap7); drill writing practice and assignment
- 2/25 and 27 Turn-in Pyware ‘basics’ assignment #2; Work on Midterm Exam/Assignment
- 3/4 and 6 Midterm Exam Due (beginning of class on 3/6);
Practical ideas for show construction (chap 2)
- 3/11 and 13 Four easy fixes for big mistakes (chap 1); making changes to your drill
design – with assignment
- 3/18 and 20 (No Class – Spring Break)
- 3/25 and 27 Developing a concept for the show (count sheet, numbers, basic ideas); A
word about competitions (chap 8); Turn-in ‘corrections’ assignment (3/27)
- 4/1 and 3 Other topics (travel, uniforms, music after high school, budget and fundraising,
etc.); Drill design techniques on Pyware
- 4/8 and 10 Assign specifics for Final project and begin work
- 4/15 and 17 Work on Final Project
- 4/22 and 24 Work on Final Project
- 4/29 View shows / Final Projects (hard copy due on 4/29)