Ball State University College of Fine Arts / School of Music / Music Performance

MUSC366/MUSC540 – Course Syllabus

NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE
Fall 2026

MUSC 140, 0 credit, MUSC 366, 1 credit, MUSC 540, sec 2E, 1 credit

MEETING TIMES: M, W 9:00-10:50 in MIB 152 & T 9:30-10:30 in Hahn

Instructors:
Dr. Amelia Kaplan Phone: (765) (28)5-2449 e-mail: askaplan@bsu.edu
Office: MU 105C Office Hours: Fridays at 9:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Players of all instruments are organized into small groups for the study of contemporary music.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/STUDENT LEANING OUTCOMES:
On completing this course, students will:

- have increased familiarity with the composers, styles and performance techniques of music of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- learn to or improve their ability to perform extended techniques on their instrument.
- improve their ability to perform difficult rhythms.
- improve their ability to improvise and interpret graphic and other aleatory scores.
- learn to or improve their ability to perform in unconventional ways, including using their voice or auxiliary percussion in addition to their primary instrument.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:
It is expected that students who participate in this ensemble will approach all music with an open mind and willingness to try unconventional methods of sound production. Practice outside of rehearsals, and other assigned homework, should be one hour each week for those wishing to earn one credit. Grades will be assigned based on attendance (50% - see below) and mastery and preparedness of your parts (50%) based on your year of study and major status.

You may miss 3 rehearsals and still receive an A in attendance. After that, each rehearsal missed will lower your grade by 1/2 letter grade (A- to B+, etc).

REQUIRED TEXTS & MATERIALS:
Parts and access to scores and recordings will be handed out at rehearsals and are posted on Canvas if you prefer an E-copy or if you lose the paper copy I gave you.

Kurt Stone, "Notation in the Twentieth-Century," is on permanent reserve in Bracken Library.

ATTENDANCE:
Attendance at weekly rehearsals, concerts, and dress rehearsal beforehand is required. You must inform the instructor of any anticipated absences. In the case of absence, the instructor may reschedule a rehearsal of the entire group depending on the size of the ensemble, so advance notice is critical.

REHEARSALS:
I will try to maintain the same schedule each week, and you may not be playing in every piece, so you may not need to be present at every rehearsal. I usually post the schedule on Sunday indicating the rehearsal schedule for the week, so PLEASE check CANVAS on Sunday evening to ensure that you are present on the appropriate days. Oversleeping or not checking e-mail is not an excuse for a missed rehearsal. Please make sure you work on your part outside of rehearsal. This can include practicing your part, or preparing instruments or parts, depending on the nature of the composition.

DISABILITY:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please contact the instructor of record as soon as possible. Ball State's Disability Services Office coordinates services for students with disabilities; documentation of a disability needs to be on file in that office before any accommodations can be provided. Disability Services can be contacted at 765-285-5293 or dsd@bsu.edu.

UNIVERSITY STATEMENT:

We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome, through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse.

FREEDOM of EXPRESSION:

In this course, we are committed to fostering a learning environment that values intellectual diversity, encourages free expression, and promotes open inquiry. As members of the Ball State Community, we treat each person in the Ball State community with civility, courtesy, compassion, and dignity and respect and learn from differences in people, ideas, and opinions. Please review Ball State University's Statement on Freedom of Expression, the resources on Ball State's Freedom of Expression webpage, and Ball State's Beneficence Pledge.

CONCERT DATE:

- **Monday, November 23, 7:30 Sursa**
- **Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-10:00 Band Room (MI 152)**
  Readings of MUST 222 pieces (parts handed out a few days before. This is a READING. If your instrument is not needed, you needn't be present.

The dress rehearsals for concerts are from 5:30-7:30. You will only need to be present for the pieces you play in. These will be scheduled based on everyone's class schedules.

I anticipate we will be performing works by:

Niloufar Nourbaksh, Mary Kouyoumdjian, Elija Daniel Smith, Gabriel Jenks,
One or Two other works TBA, and
Soundpainting