

## World Drumming Class Syllabus



### Objectives

Upon completion of the World Drumming class, students will:

- Communicate better with their fellow students and others by having learned:
  - how to listen to others,
  - respect for the need of others to have their own musical and personal space
  - the importance of leaving spaces (silence) for others to play (speak),
  - how to lead and how to follow (solo and back-up)
- Understand and demonstrate the value and techniques of cooperative teamwork.
- Demonstrate techniques for playing various types of drums (percussion)
- Improvise new drumming ensemble patterns which are complementary to those played by other students.
- Create (with small group of fellow students) new drum ensembles in the style of various drumming traditions.
- Listen actively and critically to various styles of music which include percussion. While listening, students will:
  - echo drum and singing patterns played by others,
  - identify the type of instrument being played,
  - recognize and label styles of music,
  - identify the probable culture from which the excerpt comes.
- Understand and place greater value on the peoples and musical cultures of Africa and the Caribbean.
- Students will:
  - describe the way drumming is done in at least two contrasting traditions,
  - discuss how traditional drumming may be the same or different from contemporary styles in various cultures,
  - have greater respect for people represented by the traditions studied.
- Understand how music reflects similar cultural themes and patterns found in art, dance, literature, social patterns, work, etc. of the cultures studied.

### Units of Study

Basic Instrument Technique

Throughout this unit students will:

- Learn how to hold and play various instruments (drums, bells, rattles, talking drums, marimba, etc.)
- Learn different playing techniques
- Develop and enhance eye contact with one another while playing
- Understand how to play an instrument without hurting your hands!

Ensemble One (Basic/Generic Percussion Ensemble)

Curriculum book World Music Drumming by Will Schmid Hal Leonard Books 1998 Objectives for Ensemble One include:

- Establishing an exciting atmosphere for active, hands-on learning
- Teach/Utilize basic techniques for conga drum, bell, double bell and rattle.
- Establish parameters for listening and responding through Echo and Question and Answer exercises.
- Develop the musical teamwork (with independence and interdependence) necessary to play Ensemble One.

Ensemble Two (Basic/Generic Ensemble)

Objectives for Ensemble Two include:

- Extending ensemble abilities to include more complex rhythms.
- Challenge students to create/improvise their own ensembles through absorption of the concept of Rhythm Compliments – learning to play in the spaces left by other players.
- Continue movement as a means of physically internalizing meter structure.
- Add Call and Response to Echo and Question and Answer exercises.

Concert Percussion Instruments

- Developing more sophisticated technique on instruments such as Bass drum, Tom-Toms, Cymbals, Tambourines, Congas, Bongos, and Snare Drum.
- Work with independence of part while stressing interdependence of parts in the more complex form.
- Incorporate Rhythm reading and note values.
- Beginning Percussion ensemble literature.

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Grading Policy

Daily class participation, cooperation and teamwork:

$0-5 \text{ points per class} \times 36 \text{ classes} = 180$

Written assignments – 20 points each  $\times 2 = 40$

Class ensemble performances– 20 points each  $\times 4 = 80$

Total possible points: 300