

Marching Band Techniques

Course Syllabus

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Instructor: Doug Morin

Email: djmorin@uw.edu

Office: Graves Hall, #22

Office Hours: By appointment. Drop-ins are welcome when the door is open.

Objective: The objective of this course is to create and enhance knowledge of the typical requisite skills of a marching band director.

Grading:

- 24% - Assignments (8 assignments at 3% each)
- 31% - Class Participation, Samples, and Discussion
- 25% - Notebook
- 20% - Final Project

Text: Markworth, W. (2008). *The Dynamic Marching Band*. Three Rivers, MI.

Supplemental material:

The Marching Band Director's Video Toolbox, Volumes 1 and 2 by Dave Woodley and Brad McDavid.

Anonymous. (2012). In Step with Drill Writing Trends. *School Band & Orchestra*, 15(4), 38-42.

Bailey, W., & Caneva, T. (2003). *The complete marching band resource manual: Techniques and materials for teaching, drill design, and music arranging* (2nd ed.). Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.

Dunnigan, P. (1998). *Marching band techniques: Designing, rehearsing, and perfecting marching band shows with school ensembles*. Northfield, Ill.: Instrumentalist Pub.

Foster, W. (1997). Marching band rehearsal techniques. *The Instrumentalist*, 52(1), 24-32+.

Hewitt, M. (2000). Marching Band Show Customization and Director Involvement: Their Relationship to Performance Scores. *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, (146), 18-30.

Miller, G. (2014). Planning a Marching Show. *The Instrumentalist*, 68(10), 14.

Raxsdale, B. (1985). *The Marching Band Director*. Milwaukee, WI.

Ryder, D. (2005). *Techniques of Marching Band Show Designing*. Wylie, TX.

Smith, G. (2007). *The System, Marching Band Methods*. Savoy, IL.

Snoeck, K. (1981). *Contemporary Drill Design*. Oskaloosa, IA.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to follow and abide by the guidelines laid out by the University of Washington Student Conduct Code.

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Weekly Course schedule:

Note: The timeline may change due to class discussions and the needs of students.
 Other articles and texts will be made available online throughout the course.

Week	Topics	Readings
1	Syllabus, components of band	Markworth Ch 1 and 2
2	History; Styles w/ demonstrations	Bailey 9-10
3	Music (selection criteria, sources); themes	Markworth Ch 7; Ryder 145-156
4	Terms, Field, 8 to 5, Computer programs, designing basic/static forms	Bailey 7-8, Ch 2; Snoeck 43-52
5	How to move forms, influence of music on drill	Bailey p 25
6	Perspective, spacing, band size, transitional sets	Markworth Ch 7 (again)
7	Guard, Percussion	Bailey Ch 8; Snoeck 63-68; Markwork Ch 4
8	Field placement, Effect, more transitions	Snoeck 103-106; Markworth Ch 8
9	Props, Electronics, body movement, choreography, yet more transitions	Markworth p. 45
10	Aligning all the factors; rewrites	Ryder Ch 4.
11	Rehearsal strategies, warm-up types, basics block, fundamentals	X-TIP; Markworth Ch 6
12	Philosophy of competition,	Markworth Ch 1
13	Staff, budgets, boosters	Markwork Ch 13
14	Logistics	Raxdale p 1-10, 73, 116; Bailey Ch 5; Markworth Ch. 12
15	Student Leadership	Smith 1-19; Markworth Ch. 10
16	Wrap-up	

Absences: Students are allow one absence. Further absences will negatively affect the final grade five points per absence. Extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis. Any tardy beyond the first will negatively affect the final grade 2 points per occurrence.

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Assignments and projects

Assignments and projects may be turned in electronically or in hardcopy at any point up to the submission deadline. Late assignments will be accepted up to five (5) days late, with 20% deducted for each day the assignment is late. The final project may not be submitted late.

1. Assignment #1 – Individual
 - Find 3 examples of existing arrangements (not performed by our band) that you would program for a marching band. Provide links to the music. Justify these choices.
 - Find 2 examples of new tunes you would want to arrange for marching band (but have not been arranged yet). Provide links to the music. Justify these choices.
2. Assignment #2 – Group project.

Create 3 show themes. Total music time for each should be 7 to 9 minutes. List music for each theme with timings. Provide links to the music. You may not use a preset “stock” show.
3. Assignment #3 – Individual

Hand plot points on a chart. Label the parts of the field – Front, Home, Back, Away, Front Hash, Back Hash, Side 1, Side A, Side 2, Side B, Centerfield. Draw in the location of the front and back high school and college hashes. Use “X” for all symbols, with a “-” to the item number. (Example X-5)

List will be provided at a later point.
4. Assignment #4 – Individual

Pick a song appropriate for marching band. Design 3 static forms for an average size marching band using all of the tools in the computer program based on impact points in the music. Label the moment in the music (use either measure numbers or time markers) the form applies to. Explain why the form is appropriate to the music.
5. Assignment #5 – Individual

Manipulate the forms. Trade files from assignment #4 with a classmate. Add labels to performers (your choice of system). Include instructions as to how many counts for each move to occur. Provide a copy of the start point and end point. No group of performers may hold, however a single performer within a form may hold.
6. Assignment #6 – Group

Placement, including Forms with Guard and Percussion. Select music where Guard could be featured. Provide a link to the music. Create charts showing transition to and from the guard feature. Provide proper placement for other sections based on the music. Sync the music to the drill.
7. Assignment #7 – Individual

Provide a philosophy statement for your personal approach to competition marching band.
8. Assignment #8 – Group
 - Create a sample budget for a moderate sized band that chooses to compete. Provide an approximation of student numbers. Provide a breakdown of cost per student. Provide a concept of how you will fund this budget. Assume the school system will not fund anything. Provide a rationale for your decisions.
 - Create a sample budget for a band that does not compete. Provide an approximation of student numbers.
9. Assignment #9 – Individual with group help

Notebook – Include anything and everything useful to you. Samples include: class notes, printouts, examples, photos, assignments, lists of video links, explanations.
10. Final Project – Create and Design a show – Individual or group