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**University Marching Band**

**MUN 1110, CRN 11868**

**Fall 2019**

**Instructor**: Dr. Marc Decker, Assistant Professor of Music

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**Office Hours:** MW 2:00-4:00 pm, and by appointment

**Course Time:** MWF 5:00 pm – 6:50 pm

**Course Location:** AL 260 or Marching Band Practice Field

**Course Credits:** 0-1

**Purpose:** The FAU Marching Owls performs at all home football games throughout the semester and comprises of woodwinds, brass, percussion, color guard, and twirlers. Its purpose is to provide entertaining performances that draw the audience into the game, inspire the team to victory, represent the community with pride, and nurture a spirit of cooperation and sportsmanship. The band comprises of students representing a variety of disciplines who contribute musically to the game-day atmosphere uniting the student body, university, and community in mutual camaraderie.

**Membership:** Membership in the FAU Marching Owls is open to any student enrolled at Florida Atlantic University or a qualifying community college with the permission of the director. Students must be registered for MUN 4113 or MUN 1110. Prior marching experience is not mandatory for membership. However, prior playing experience is.

Placement auditions for brass and woodwinds will be held the first day of pre-season training in August. Auditions for positions in the drumline, color guard, majorette line, and leadership are held in April with additional audition times offered in the summer as needed.

**Leadership:** An organization as large and complex as the FAU Marching Owls has many leaders responsible for its administration, appearance, and sound. Many of the positions are student leaders who give up many hours to assist in the band’s operations. All student leadership positions are open each year in the Spring. Returning leaders must be re-audition for positions.

**Marching Owls Staff and Leadership:**

**Directors**

Dr. Kyle Prescott, Director of Bands

Dr. Marc Decker, Associate Director of Bands, Director of Athletic Bands

**Drumline Instructor**

Matthew Nichols, Director of Percussion Studies

**Guard Instructor**

Stephanie Shaktman

**Graduate Assistants**

Brandon Fluentes

Kevin Lopez

Daniel Meier

Petar Smilev

**Drum Major**David Klein  
  
**Training Coordinator/Field Coordinator**Zach Zaffuta  
  
**Brass Captain**Connor LaValetta  
  
**Percussion Captain**Bobby Matheison

**Percussion Assistant Captain**

Kaity Gomez

**Guard Captain**Tori Hirshberg  
  
**Quartermaster**Spencer Pesseux

**Assistant Quartermaster**

Robbie Flory

**Position Descriptions:**

**Graduate Assistant:** The job of the Graduate Assistants is to work closely with all staff members, particularly the director, to ensure effective running of all band rehearsals and performances. Primary duties include running sectionals, conducting the band, teaching drill, and all administrative duties associated with rehearsals and performances. Administrative responsibilities include setting-up and taking-down equipment, taking attendance, instrument repair, and other duties as assigned.

**Drum Major**: The Drum Major is the highest-ranking student member of the marching band and functions as "field commander" of the band during rehearsals and performances. The DM is directly responsible to the Director, and works with him in leading rehearsals and performances. The DM serves as the staff manager, communicating with the student leadership and acts a liaison to all members of the band.

**Quartermaster:** The primary responsibility of the quartermaster(s) is the inventory and repair of university-owned instruments, equipment, and uniforms. This includes coordinating repairs with local music dealers when in-house repairs are not possible. The quartermaster is responsible for coordinating all logistics concerning the packing and unpacking of band luggage and equipment prior to trips and to coordinate all activities in preparing the practice field for rehearsals and performances. The quartermaster is also responsible for the inventory and maintenance of band hats, t-shirts, gloves, rain ponchos, and all other equipment owned by the FAU Bands.

**Training and Field Coordinator**: This person is responsible for the training of all new and returning members. They will supervise the training regiment during preseason training. They will also be responsible for upholding the marching style and standards throughout the season. They will assist the director in setting drill at rehearsals and ensuring proper execution.

**Music Librarian**: Responsible for the disbursement, collection, and cataloguing of all music used in the various athletic bands.

**Captains:** Captains are student leaders responsible for a particular instrumental section of the band. This responsibility includes the training of the section in the content and execution of the marching fundamentals, regular rehearsal of the performance music used by the Marching Owls, instruction in the basic rules and regulations as contained in the band handbook, and the maintenance of high standards of performance, spirit, and "esprit de corps" within the section. The Section Leader will serve as the spokesperson for the entire section, and will assist the Director in making personnel decisions in the section as well as policy decisions that will affect the entire band

**Pre-Season Training:** Generally, the last full week prior to the start of fall semester is Pre-Season Training week. This week serves to educate new members and re-familiarize veteran members on the marching fundamentals that have become known as FAU Marching Owls style. Also covered during this week are the policies and procedures of the band as well as the season's calendar of events. All members are expected to be in attendance at Pre-Season Training unless specifically excused by the Director. Such excuses will be granted only for the most serious of situations, and only after a conference between the student and Director.

**School Owned Equipment:** Members will be legally and financially responsible for all items which they borrow from the school including, but not limited to, school owned instruments, uniforms, and guard equipment. They should be returned in the same or better condition from when they were checked-out. Any damage to equipment beyond what the quartermaster and director deem as “normal wear and tear” is the financial responsibility of the student to cover and student accounts will be billed. Any equipment that is lost or stolen is the responsibility of the student to replace. The cost of replacing uniforms is $450 and the cost to replace/repair instruments can be much more.

To check-out and return school owned equipment, report to the quartermaster and complete all the required paperwork. Never borrow equipment without reporting to the quartermaster and never assume that it is returned without reporting to the quartermaster.

**EXPECTED BEHAVIOR OF THE MARCHING OWLS:** Public opinion about the Marching Owls is determined not only by the way the band performs, but by the actions of its membership. Because of this, the following expectations are set forth for all members of the band:

1. All Owls will be in attendance and on time to all rehearsals, parades, recording sessions, and

performances. All Owls will maintain a high level of deportment during rehearsals.

2. There will be no smoking/vaping during rehearsals or anytime you are in uniform.

3. The use of intoxicants (alcohol, drugs, etc.) is strictly prohibited from all Owl rehearsals,

travel, and performances. Intoxicants are strictly prohibited in the stadium. Owls who are of

legal age in the State of Florida may wish to consume alcoholic beverages before official

Owls' events but they are cautioned that they will be held accountable for their performance or behavior as a result of this decision. Owls should not accept alcoholic beverages from FAU football fans before, during, or after games. After games, the Owls' uniform should be removed and properly put away before attending any parties. The Director of the Marching Owls will have final decision making authority in the determination of substance abuse.

4. Owls will display responsible behavior while traveling to and from official events. During

official travel, Marching Owls will refrain from substance abuse on buses, at hotels, and during

official rehearsal or performing activities. During official travel, you should consider yourself

"On duty" from the moment of departure to the moment of return. There are no "safe times" for

consumption of alcoholic beverages. Since Marching Owls consist primarily of "under aged"

persons, students who are of legal age are hereby advised that they must adhere to all policies set

forth regarding expected behavior.

5. There will be no hazing of new members. Marching Owls are expected to comply with all

University policies regarding hazing. (Refer to the FAU Student Handbook for complete details

on the University Hazing Policy.)

6. There will be no official gathering of Marching Owls, on or off campus, at which alcohol is

served. There is no such thing as an "Owls Party" at which alcohol is served.

7. Marching Owls should make every effort to show the utmost respect to their fellow Owls.

Any student who puts another student "at-risk" or intentionally jeopardizes the safety of another

student will be dismissed. Such actions may also be referred to the Dean of Students.

8. All Owls will show the greatest respect for University equipment and their Marching Owls'

uniform. Students who abuse their school-owned equipment will be dismissed from the band.

9. Marching Owls should refrain from engaging in abusive language or behavior with football

fans who may wish to provoke a confrontation.

10. The Director of the Marching Owls will have final decision-making authority in determining appropriate consequences for those who deviate from the expected behavior. One of the potential consequences is dismissal from Owls.

**ROAD TRIPS:**

Most travel done by the Owls will not interfere with your class schedule; however, some classes

may be missed particularly on Fridays. When classes must be missed for any official

performance, excuses will be provided by the Director for presentation to your instructors.

Be advised that it is up to the individual instructor to accept the written excuse which you

submit. In other words, the excuse form does not absolve you for missing class or assignments.

Keep your instructor informed about absences! Communicate!

When traveling we represent Florida Atlantic University and the Marching Owls. Always act in way which represents our school and community with pride.

**GAME DAY PROCEDURES:**

**A. Rehearsal:** On the mornings before each home game, the Marching Owls will meet at the practice field for rehearsal at the designated time wearing FAU Marching Owls t-shirt, shorts, and marching shoes. After rehearsal, the Marching Owls will be dismissed and will reassemble at “Narnia” before marching the Breezeway to the stadium.

**B. March the Breezeway:** The band will assemble in “Narnia” in a parade block, marching all the way to the stadium and setup in their designated seating in sections 119-120. Friends and family may walk the Breezeway in front of or behind the band, but must purchase their own tickets for the game.

**C. Owl Walk:** The band will perform several spirited tunes for the “Owl Walk”. Afterwards, the band will be fed and will need to change into full uniforms, which are stored in the stadium. The uniform is to be returned to the storage room directly after the game.

**D. Uniform Inspection:** A uniform inspection will be done by the leadership prior to Pre-Game.

* Gloves: Clean and washed
* Socks: Black
* Marching Shoes: Clean and tied
* Uniform: Buttoned, zipped, and clean
* Jewelry: Unseen and under the uniform
* Hair: Up, tucked into the shako and off the collar
* Facial Hair: Trimmed and neat
* Sunglasses: May be worn, with the exception of Pre-Game/Half-Time shows
* Navy T-Shirt: underneath the uniform
* No visible accessories or additions

**D. During the Game:**

* Section Leaders will control the flow of band members allowed to go to the bathroom or concession stand. No more than 15% of any section may be dismissed at any time.
* When the Drum Major, or Director indicates that it is time to play a musical selection, all Owls will participate.
* The uniform is to remain fully on unless indicated by the Drum Major. In the event of extreme weather, the Drum Major – and no one else – may indicate that the band can remove their shakos and put on the official FAU Marching Owls baseball caps. The Drum Major may also, indicate that the band can remove their jackets. Note: Any Marching Owl who is not wearing the official band t-shirt underneath the uniform must keep their jacket on at all times, regardless of the temperature.
* NCAA regulations state the FAU Football Team can receive a 5-yard penalty if the band plays at inappropriate times. Always follow your Drum Major for cut-offs.

**E. Other:** In uniform you are perceived as a representative of Florida Atlantic University. Never do or say anything that may be interpreted in a negative light for the FAU Marching Owls or our school. Do not use inappropriate language, and avoid cheers in opposition to the other team. Instead, focus on cheering for our school.

**BOWL GAME PARTICIPATION:** By auditioning for the FAU Marching Owls you are committing yourself to a post-season bowl game. While some Owls may be excused from the trip due to extreme hardship, it is expected that all those who accept membership in good faith will participate in the bowl game trip for this season. Bowl game expenses are covered by FAU.

**MARCHING OWLS ATTENDANCE POLICY:** Every Marching Owl is a vital part of the ensemble! When one Marching Owl misses rehearsal, it effects all those around him/her. The chain reaction it causes slows instruction time and decreases the overall quality of the sound and look of the band. It is for these reasons that perfect attendance for every member is vital to the success of the group. Attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals or performances unless excused by the Director.

**Attendance Manger –** The Attendance Manager is available for you to ask questions throughout the semester. This person is a resource and should be used to inform you of your attendance record. Your attendance record should not be a mystery. Go and ask!

**Class Conflicts –** In the event that an unavoidable scheduling conflict exists in a student schedule, the student is to complete a “Class Conflict Request Form” kept in the band office. Typically, no more then 1-hour per week of missed rehearsal time will be permitted.

**Pre-Arranged Absences –** In the event of official FAU related conflicts, ROTC training, weddings, and various other foreseeable reasons that might require a Marching Owl to miss a rehearsal, complete an “Absence Request Form”, kept in the band office. The Director will determine if the absence will be excused.

**Sudden Illness and Emergencies –** Complete an “Absence Request Form” and turn it in the following day. A doctor’s note may be requested, but generally will only be necessary if illnesses are frequent throughout the semester, or, if the illness lasts three or more days. The Director will determine if the absence is excused.

**Unexcused Absences –** Any absence not approved by the Director for one of the above reasons, or in an emergency.

**Tardy –** Anyone not ready to start at 5:00 pm for rehearsal, with their instrument ready, or for the call-time at a game will receive a tardy.

**Consequences –** In the event of an “unexcused absence” the student will not be charted in the following game’s half-time show. This is in addition to grading consequences of missing a rehearsal.

**GRADES:**  Grading is done entirely based upon participation. An unexcused absence from an official performance will result in the grade of "Unsatisfactory." Unexcused absences from rehearsals will be evaluated as follows:

4 or Less Unexcused Absence: Satisfactory

5+ Unexcused Absences: Unsatisfactory

**Student Accessibility Services:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center:** Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU’s Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau,edu/counseling/

**Code of Academic Integrity policy statement:** Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.