Instructors: Jason Alexander & Ben Ahrendt
Telephone: (612) 618–3698
Email: marching.band@oberlin.edu
Rehearsals: 2 hours a week, Sunday 2-4 pm
Hales Gym
Planning Meetings: One optional 1 hr. meeting / week at Lunch
Credits: 0 – 1 hrs
Materials: Provide your own instrument if you have one. If not, we have a limited quantity.
Course Description: During the spring semester, the Oberlin College Marching Band teaches parade style marching and music to perform in the Big Parade through town, and possibly out-of-town parades. We also continue to play as a pep band for spring sports. We offer opportunities for music composition and arrangement, as well as planning for the fall’s half-time show. We perform with brass, woodwinds, percussion and color-guard. All levels of experience are welcome.

Objectives:
1. Learn how to march and play as an ensemble
2. Memorize parade music
3. Design the fall field show
4. Learn and perform pep band music
5. Perform in parades, including the town’s Big Parade

Development: Oberlin College Marching Band offers opportunities for the participant to compose and arrange music, design a field show, and become a better musician.

Rehearsal Example: In the average rehearsal, approximately half the time will be spent learning and memorizing music. The other half will be spent putting the music to marching. At the beginning of the semester, more time is spent on the fundamentals of marching.

General Requirements/Attendance Policy: In order to perform well as an ensemble, it is necessary for all members to attend rehearsals. Although we are willing to work around conflicts, all members who wish to take Oberlin College Marching Band for
credit are required to attend all rehearsals. If three (3) or more rehearsals are missed, then the student will not receive credit. Additionally all students are required to perform in the Big Parade (tentatively the last weekend in April).

Students will be notified of opportunities that arise to perform pep band at spring sports throughout the semester. These are required barring any difficult scheduling conflict. It is expected that the student attends as many as possible.

Methods of Evaluation

Both mid-semester and at the end of the semester, students will be evaluated on their effort and improvement. Many factors will be considered upon evaluation, such as their initial skill level at both playing and marching. Evaluations will be given in the form of written comments, and will be graded as either pass or no pass.

Content Outline:

Week 1: Introduction; Basics of ensemble playing and marching; Discuss selection of three parade pieces and assign arranging to volunteers

Week 2: Begin rehearsal and memorization of first parade piece; Continue basics of marching; Prepare two pep band pieces

Week 3: Continue ensemble work and memorization of first parade piece; Put first piece to marching; Prepare a third pep band piece

Week 4: Begin rehearsal and memorization of second parade piece; Continue to clean and completely memorize first parade piece and practice it while marching

Week 5: Continue ensemble work and memorization of the second parade piece; Put second parade piece to marching; Prepare a fourth pep band piece

Week 6: Complete ensemble work and memorization of second parade piece; Begin rehearsal and memorization of third parade piece; Put second piece to marching

Week 7: Continue rehearsal and memorization of third parade piece; Review the first and second parade pieces; Prepare a fifth pep band piece

Week 8: Finish ensemble work and memorization of third parade piece; Put third parade piece to marching; Review other parade pieces
Week 9: Review parade pieces; Practice playing all while marching

Week 10: Review parade pieces; Big Parade

Week 11: Finalize field show plans for fall; Finish writing drill and music

Week 12: Finalize field show plans for fall; Finish writing drill and music