



**Syllabus: Oberlin College Marching Band
EXCO 645
Fall 2011**

- Instructors:** Jason Alexander
- Telephone:** (715) 255-0506
- Email:** marching.band@oberlin.edu
- Rehearsals:** 3.5 hours a week, Thursday 4:30-6pm & 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 fall semester, the Oberlin College Marching Band teaches field style marching and music to perform in field shows at sporting events on campus, and possibly out-of-town events. We also continue to play as a pep band for fall sports. We offer opportunities for music composition and arrangement, as well as drill writing 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 field show music
 3. Design the fall field show
 4. Learn and perform pep band music
 5. Perform field shows
- 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 as many shows as possible.

Students will be notified of opportunities that arise to perform pep band at fall 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 pieces and assign arranging to volunteers
- Week 2:** Begin rehearsal and memorization of first piece; Continue basics of marching; Prepare two pep band pieces
- Week 3:** Continue ensemble work and memorization of first piece; Put first piece to marching; Prepare a third pep band piece
- Week 4:** Begin rehearsal and memorization of second piece; Continue to clean and completely memorize first piece and practice it while marching
- Week 5:** Continue ensemble work and memorization of the second piece; Put second piece to marching; Prepare a fourth pep band piece
- Week 6:** Complete ensemble work and memorization of second piece; Begin rehearsal and memorization of third piece; Put second piece to marching
- Week 7:** Continue rehearsal and memorization of third piece; Review the first and second pieces; Prepare a fifth pep band piece
- Week 8:** Finish ensemble work and memorization of third piece; Put third piece to marching; Review other pieces
- Week 9:** Review pieces; Practice playing all while marching
- Week 10:** Review pieces

Week 11: Finalize plans for spring; Finish writing drill and music

Week 12: Finalize plans for spring; Finish writing drill and music