

Boston University Athletic Bands FALL SEMESTER

CFA MU 191/091/185 Marching Band

CFA MU 193/093/186 Pep Band

Course Credits:

1 credit, 0 credit (only if at/above credit limit), Hub unit (may be repeated every Fall semester)

1 credit version required for Hub (use course registration # in the "180's" for Hub)

0 credit version not eligible for Hub credit

These Fall courses progress to Spring Semester ensembles:

CFA MU 191/091/187 Winter Drumline

CFA MU 191/091/188 Winter Guard

CFA MU 193/093/189 Pep Band II

Hub Units: Teamwork/Collaboration earned through successful completion of:

Fall: CFA MU 185 (Marching Band) or CFA MU 186 (Pep Band)

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Spring: CFA MU 187 (Winter Drumline) or CFA MU 188 (Winter Guard) or CFA MU 189 (Pep Band)

Instructor Name: Aaron Goldberg

Course Dates: Fall semester (Marching Band also includes Band Camp during the last week of August)

Office Location: College of Fine Arts, 855 Commonwealth Ave., Office 419

Course Times & Locations: Times and locations vary – see ensemble calendars:

<http://www.bu.edu/bands/members/calendars/>

Contact Information: agold@bu.edu / (w) 617-353-6067 / (c) 978-853-1669

Office Hours: By appointment

Other Instructors: Sharif Mamoun (smamoun@bu.edu) / (w) 617-358-3126 / (c) 732-513-0685

Graduate Assistants: Chris Routh (csrouth@bu.edu) and Victoria Paspalas (paspalas@bu.edu)

Course Description

Boston University Athletic Bands are designed to bring together students of all majors, backgrounds, experience levels, and interests from across the University (the ensembles are campus-wide), and synthesize the group through the shared experience of tackling large-scale projects to eventually be performed for large amounts of people on campus, in our community, and regionally. This is achieved by students working with faculty, staff, teaching assistants, student leaders, and guest clinicians to learn music, choreography, drill, and/or shows that are traditionally performed for a combined average of 250,000 people annually. Students have the ability to work in groups, coach each other, and learn how to effectively give and receive feedback in a fun yet structured setting. Boston University Athletic Bands are highly in-demand on campus and in the Greater Boston area, and have been featured in Hollywood

movies and on national television. With a vast, constantly-evolving repertoire, wide-ranging performance opportunities in a variety of settings, and instructors of assorted backgrounds, students who participate in Boston University Athletic Bands are members of a “musical team” – they are primed for a semester, a college experience, and a lifetime of meaningful teamwork and collaboration.

In Boston University Athletic Bands, the following **educational strategies** are employed:

- Active learning
- Experiential learning
- Project-based learning
- Team-teaching (student-based, and faculty/staff-based)
- Arts-based learning

Six **guiding questions** to consider for community-forming in Boston University Athletic Bands:

- How are Boston University Athletic Bands an outstanding vehicle for teamwork and collaboration?
- How do the ensembles create leaders?
- How does participation foster better communication, concentration, work ethic, and time management?
- How is the journey worth as much as – or more than – the end result?
- How does the experience prepare one to meet and overcome challenges as a team and as an individual?
- How does one learn valuable skills for life and the workplace through participation in these ensembles?

All athletic bands students are asked to engage in the learning process through team-wide participation in rehearsal (music & visual), performance, planning, and travel. Students develop skills, values, and knowledge in the non-academic settings of the football field, stadium seats, or street performance venues. The real-world approach that students use to ready themselves and their “musical team” for large-scale public performances prepares them for the challenges of working together under pressure and deadlines in future scenarios, and the repetition of this process allows students the opportunity to reflect, retool, and recreate a shared project that continuously improves throughout the course of the season. Students have the opportunity to coach, and be coached, by other students in their section, which - from both angles - helps build leadership skills. The artistic process of learning, sculpting, and performing music/shows designed to elevate the spirit, entertain the masses, and bring people together through a common pride is a valuable experience for thinkers and learners of all backgrounds, interests, and ability levels.

General assessment occurs throughout the learning process in both small & large teaching/learning environments, and via numerous public performances each semester.

(See “Assignments and Grading Criteria” for a specific breakdown)

Hub Learning Outcomes

Intellectual Toolkit: Teamwork/Collaboration

1. As a result of explicit training in teamwork and sustained experiences of collaborating with others, students will be able to identify the characteristics of a well-functioning team.

Students in **Boston University Athletic Bands** cooperate in a coordinated effort to learn, sculpt, produce, and perform music/shows as a diverse collective of people. The ensembles can only function if the team works well together.

Marching Band students begin the season by learning basic music and marching fundamentals, and they adapt and apply these skills to the learning and production of a halftime-style field show for performance on campus, in eastern Massachusetts, and across the Northeast.

Pep Band students have a similar experience, but the visual performance is limited to the arena stands, meaning that no marching is involved, yet there is still a great degree of coordinated horn moves and choreography in a limited space. The musical workload of Pep Band is far greater.

In both ensembles, students work to gain elements of mutual trust, understanding, appreciation, and respect for the individual, the section, and the ensemble as a whole. These values are crucial to truly understand teamwork and collaboration, and to being able to apply them to real-world situations and experiences outside of the collegiate athletic band environment.

2. Students will demonstrate an ability to use the tools and strategies of working successfully with a diverse group, such as assigning roles and responsibilities, giving and receiving feedback, and engaging in meaningful group reflection that inspires collective ownership of results.

Boston University Athletic Bands are comprised of students of different backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities, religions, and genders – all hailing from different colleges, schools, and majors across the University. These diverse music ensembles also consist of students with varying levels of musical expertise, experience, prior training, ability, and even musical interests.

In **Marching Band**, students regularly receive feedback from the staff while isolating specific visual or musical components needed to achieve greater success in particular areas of the field show. Additionally, they assess themselves through studying video of rehearsal segments and full, uniformed performances, and they regularly meet with their sections, student leaders, and the faculty and staff to discuss how the team is doing and to devise ways to work better and more efficiently if needed.

In **Pep Band**, students hold self-run sectional rehearsals to improve components of their musical book comprised of over 120 tunes, and then apply these skills to the larger production of multiple weekly public performances with bands ranging between 15-150 members.

Course-Specific Objectives

- Section-based music fundamentals (*approaching the instrument, and music, correctly and uniformly*)
- Dance, choreography, and weapon fundamentals (*color guard-specific*)
- Drill and visual fundamentals (*approaching marching and movement correctly and uniformly*)
- Ensemble skills (*balance, blend, intonation, phrasing, rhythmic alignment*)
- Musical and visual understanding (*artistic intent, storyline within the music/show*)
- Performance skills (*application to large-scale performances in BU uniform*)
- Travel experience (*learning to take the show on the road*)
- Teamwork (*working together to achieve a common goal*)
- Responsibility (*being accountable as an individual, section, and team*)
- Communication (*the clear exchange of information in a positive, effective, and healthy way*)
- Overcoming adversity (*approaching difficulty mindfully and with purpose*)
- Time management (*fitting band into academic life, and achieving ensemble goals in the time allotted*)
- Leadership (*learning how to motivate a group towards a common goal*)
- Community Involvement (*performing for, and alongside, the campus, local, and regional community*)
- School spirit (*being an audible and visible representation of Boston University spirit and pride*)

Periodic Reflection Assignments CFA MU 185-189 (for Hub Unit only)

Throughout the course of each semester, students will gather to reflect on the ongoing experience/process regarding teamwork and collaboration in BU Athletic Bands. During each reflective period (Weeks 1, 5, 9, 14), students will engage in verbal and written reflections guided by BU Athletic Bands faculty and instructors (e.g., Aaron Goldberg, Sharif Mamoun, and Kinh T. Vu). For these reflection periods, students will have opportunities to workshop current ideas/practices and formulate new ways to further teamwork and collaboration within the context of BU Athletic Bands. Below is a table outlining each area for consideration. Students will respond to these prompts by participating in two in-person workshops and four short, written responses via Blackboard each semester.

	FALL 2021 (for Hub unit only) CFA MU 185: Marching Band CFA MU 186: Pep Band	SPRING 2022 (for Hub unit only) CFA MU 187: Winter Drum Line CFA MU 188: Winter Guard CFA MU 189: Pep Band
WEEK 1-2 Exposition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a team? • How does a team operate? • What makes a team effective or ineffective? • What are strategies for problem-solving and communicating about issues related to teamwork and collaboration? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes a successful team? • How does a successful team operate? • What are hallmarks of a successful team's ability to work in and through adversity? • Look ahead at next-level teamwork and collaboration endeavors in the Spring version of BU Athletic Bands.
WEEK 5-6 Development 1 Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you noticed the ideas from week 1 manifested in your weekly BU Athletic Bands experience? • What challenges regarding teamwork and collaboration have occurred and how were they managed? • Identify areas where communication across the team is working well and where it can work better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the new activities occurring this semester, identify how our teams are doing implementing the practices of successful groups as identified in Week 1. • What challenges regarding teamwork and collaboration have occurred and how were they managed? • Identify areas where communication across the team is working well and where it can work better.

WEEK 9-10 Development 2 Reflection	<p><i>This week's reflection occurs at the end of the Marching Band performance season and at the beginning of performance season for Pep Band.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this important turning point in the semester, students will continue to dialogue and journal based on Week 5 questions (see above) while beginning the finalization process for the semester. 	<p><i>This week's reflection occurs at the end of regular-season sports (e.g., hockey/basketball) and at the beginning of outdoor performances (e.g., prospective student days, Faneuil Hall).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this important turning point in the semester, students will continue to dialogue and journal based on Week 5 questions (see above) while beginning the finalization process for the semester.
WEEK 13-14 Summation Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare your initial notions (week 1, 5, 9) about teamwork and collaboration to current understanding and practices based on the completion of this semester. Discuss implications of this semester's learning outcomes to next semester as a springboard for understanding and implementing teamwork and collaboration in CFA MU187, 188, and 189. How would you apply this semester's learnings centered on teamwork/collaboration to outside (non-band) situations (e.g., work environment)? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on your participation in a full academic year of BU Athletic Bands, what changes have you noticed about your initial ideas regarding teamwork and collaboration? What have you noticed about the group process of developing and practicing teamwork and collaboration? What suggestions regarding teamwork and collaboration would you make for next year's BU Athletic Bands courses? How would you apply this academic year's learnings centered on teamwork and collaboration to outside (non-band) situations (e.g., work environment)?

Other Outcomes

Boston University Athletic Bands provide a service to students of all majors by providing them with an outlet to rehearse, perform, and play music on nights and weekends outside of their academic day. In turn, these students provide a service to the University by being the University's Band for sporting

events, community performances, civic events, and ambassadorial exhibitions and collaborations with regional high school bands. In short, BU Athletic Bands are “the University’s Band.”

Participation in BU Athletic Bands also provides the opportunity for music majors to gain pertinent experience on their secondary instruments, and for music education majors to experience an idiom that they may be tasked with teaching in the future, thus adding marketability to their resumes and extra value to their degrees.

Music minors may be able to satisfy degree requirements via enrollment in Marching Band.

Boston University Athletic Bands are the most visible music ensembles offered by the School of Music and the College of Fine Arts.

Assignments and Grading

Marching Band grades are determined by:

- 50% Attendance (includes being at all events on time)
- 30% Preparedness (includes knowing all music, drill, choreography, and having all materials)
- 20% Participation (engaging fully in the team experience)

Pep Band grades are determined by:

- 75% Attendance (includes being at events and completing digital web forms on time)
- 25% Participation (engaging fully in the team experience)

Attendance (Marching Band):

Members of the BU Marching Band are expected to be at all Marching Band events (rehearsals, performances, etc.). Due to the nature of how a marching band functions, 100% attendance is required at all BU Marching Band events. If a serious conflict should arise, members must communicate in advance directly with Aaron Goldberg, Director (agold@bu.edu), or Sharif Mamoun, Assistant Director (smamoun@bu.edu). Last-minute absences will only be tolerated at the discretion of the Director. Think ahead and plan ahead, and attendance should never be an issue. To request late arrivals coming from class for the entire season, email agold@bu.edu and provide documentation of your class (screenshot of class schedule, etc.)

Preparedness (Marching Band):

Members of the BU Marching Band are expected to prepare their music, drill, choreography and work in order to rehearse and perform at a quality level. Members can seek the help of a section leader, drum major, staff member, or the director in order to help them achieve this expectation. Members are also expected to have all necessary materials (sheet music, drill charts, etc.) and equipment (instrument, accessories, etc., in proper working condition) with them at all times. Do the work to prepare your parts outside of rehearsal in order to have a better experience in rehearsal and at performances.

Attendance (Pep Band):

Members of the BU Pep Band are expected to be at all **rehearsals**. To request late arrivals coming from class for the entire season, email agold@bu.edu and provide documentation of your class (screenshot of class schedule, etc.) Given the large number of **performances**, members are allowed to procure a

substitute musician from the opposite-color band to sub for them at a performance when a conflict arises. Pep Band members typically sub for each other (within their section) whenever an academic or personal conflict arises. One of our mottos is, *"Never leave your spot in the band open."*

Subbing (Pep Band):

To alert the Staff to a sub taking your place at a performance, email pepband@bu.edu at least 24-hours before the performance, copy your sub on the email, and state the event, your section, and who's subbing for you. LIST ONLY ONE EVENT PER EMAIL, PLEASE! Then, be sure to let your Section Leader(s) know – it's important they know where everybody's at. Be sure to return the favor and sub for others – it's how participation in Pep Band remains flexible for everybody.

Free Unexcused Absences (Pep Band):

The Staff understands that even though you've committed to performing in *"the hardest working pep band in all of college athletics,"* sometimes Life gets really busy. Pep Band members are allotted two (2) free unexcused absences per semester, no questions asked. Additionally, Marching Band members in Pep Band are allotted an additional two (2) free unexcused absences to be used in Pep Band during Marching Band season only. To use yours, email pepband@bu.edu and state your name, section, the event you are choosing to miss, and which free unexcused absence you are using (#1 or #2, etc.). **PLEASE NOTE:** there will be a few performances each semester that Pep Band members are required to be at, and at which free unexcused absences will not apply. These typically will include the Home Show (fall), BU vs BC Hockey (fall or spring), Ice Show (spring), and End-of-Year Extravaganza (spring). Members will be alerted to these events on the calendar notes.

Participation (Both):

Athletic Bands members are expected to immerse themselves fully in music-making, show-learning, and the overall team-oriented experience. Just being "present" is not enough. Being "fully involved" helps the team look and sound its best, and also increases the enjoyment factor of the individual participants. Be fully engaged and fully involved, and share in the positive results together.

Resources/Support/How to Succeed in This Course:

Seeking help when needed is one of the greatest things students can do to be successful. Approach your Section Leader, Drum Major / Pep Band Manager, Graduate Assistant, Staff, or Faculty to help you whenever needed, no matter how large or small the issue. Attend office hours (*details on front page*) if needed. Everyone on the team, including the directors, are here for your success and well-being, and for that of the team.

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability or believe you might have a disability that requires accommodations, please contact the Office for Disability Services (ODS) at (617) 353-3658 or access@bu.edu to coordinate any reasonable accommodation requests. ODS is located at 25 Buick Street on the 3rd floor.

Community of Learning: Class and University Policies

Our Values: "The Starting Five" for BU Athletic Bands

- We take care of Ourselves
- We take care of Each Other
- We take care of Our Space
- We take care of Our Stuff
- We take care of Business

ALWAYS LOOK GREAT, ALWAYS SOUND GREAT

Overall Expectations:

Members of BU Athletic Bands are expected to:

- Be at all band events (rehearsals, performances, etc.) and communicate directly with Aaron Goldberg (Director) or Sharif Mamoun (Assistant Director) should a serious conflict arise. (Let Section Leaders know as well, but emergency absence requests must first go through the Director for approval.)
- Accurately memorize music, drill coordinates & forms, work, and choreography (Marching Band)
- Work well together as a team
- Create and maintain a positive environment at all times
- Be communicative with student leaders, staff, and faculty – it's the way to do business!

Policy on Alcohol/Tobacco/Illegal Drugs:

Athletic Bands members are expected to be familiar with, and adhere to, the Boston University "Policy on Alcohol & Illegal Substances:" www.bu.edu/dos/policies/lifebook/drugs-alcohol/

In addition, members are expected to adhere to policies at schools or other venues where the Band is rehearsing, staying, or performing.

Travel Policy:

Band members are expected to conduct themselves professionally at all times while traveling off-campus with the ensemble. This refers to individual look, actions, and language. Always represent Boston University and BU Bands in the highest professional manner. Be proud, be professional, and show it.

Mental Health Resources:

Seek help when you need it. Behavioral Medicine (under Student Health Services) is comprised of psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical nurse specialists, licensed mental health clinicians, and clinical social workers, and is well versed in the many issues that can crop up over an academic career. Their team of experts can help guide you toward mental and emotional health and stability:

<http://www.bu.edu/shs/behavioral-medicine/>

Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center:

The staff at the Sexual Assault Response & Prevention Center (under Student Health Services) provides professional, rapid, confidential, and free-of-charge advocacy and assistance to BU students who have experienced a traumatic incident. They will maintain your confidentiality:

<http://www.bu.edu/shs/sarp/>

Wellness Center:

College students thrive when they're healthy. The goal of the Wellness Center (under Student Health Services) is to help you stay well throughout your time on campus by providing programs and services that promote your well-being: <http://www.bu.edu/shs/wellness/>

Ensemble Fees:

Ensemble Fees are a combination of required course materials & items you will own for the duration of the season. Items such as the BU Bands polo shirt and marching shoes can be used in subsequent seasons and should be considered a one-time purchase. Financial assistance can be provided to those in need. Contact Aaron Goldberg (agold@bu.edu) or Sharif Mamoun (smamoun@bu.edu).

MARCHING BAND FEES: <https://www.bu.edu/bands/marching-band-fees/>

PEP BAND FEES: <https://www.bu.edu/bands/fee-payment-pep/>

Pep Band Uniform:

The BU Pep Band uniform is: **Red** polo shirt with BU logo (purchased), **All-black** pants (provided by you), and **Any shoes** (provided by you). If you choose to wear undergarments like long sleeve or short sleeve shirts, they must be **all-white**. If you choose to wear a hat, it must be **BU colors** and **BU branding** (Example: a red & white Northeastern hat doesn't work....neither does a grey BU hat.) This is for a uniform look, school colors & pride. Financial assistance is available to those in need - contact Aaron Goldberg or Sharif Mamoun, and we will work with you.

Instrument, Equipment, and Uniform:

Band members are expected to take excellent care of their BU instrument/equipment/uniform at all times. Instruments and equipment borrowed from BU Bands must be returned in the same condition as when they were signed-out. Members should understand the repercussions as noted in their Loan Agreements if they do not meet these expectations (see individual Loan Agreement forms).

Course Schedule / Class Meetings:

Rehearsal, performance, and travel schedules can vary from week to week. See the ensemble calendars here, and click on “notes” for times, locations, and the rehearsal plan/content:

<http://www.bu.edu/bands/members/calendars/>

It is recommended that students sync their ensemble’s calendar to their phone so that they are always up-to-date.

BU Bands / School of Music COVID-19 Ensembles Policies (Fall 2021):

Masks—Strings, percussion, and vocalists will not be removing their masks in large ensembles. Wind and brass students may only remove their face masks to play. Bell covers will not be used.

Density—Ensembles will incorporate enhanced social distancing between vocalists, brass players, and wind players when possible.

Time—Ensembles will meet for the full class time as stated in the course catalog.

COVID-19 Compliance—Faculty and Staff will check all students for COVID-19 compliance before the start of each rehearsal.

COVID-19 Testing—All students participating in large ensembles should take advantage of the opportunity to be tested twice each week.

Air Flow—Air scrubber units will remain on during rehearsals (when available).

Hygiene—We continue to emphasize personal hygiene, including frequent handwashing and cleaning spit valves and storage areas. No food or drink should be kept in performance and rehearsal areas.

Personal Practice Time at the Band Room or CFA

Any student registered for a CFA (College of Fine Arts) music ensemble can have access to the 100+ practice rooms in the basement of CFA (855 Comm Ave). For access, see Danny Vozzolo in basement office B01, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm to get card access for the semester. State your ensemble(s).

The Band Room (300 Babcock St.) is first come, first served, just like the CFA basement. Your BU ID card should work for access if you are registered for any BU Bands music ensemble.

Thank you, and **GO TERRIERS!!!**