



AZTEC FIRE 2015

THE NEWSLETTER / COURSE SYLLABUS OF THE SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING AZTECS

Greetings to all new and returning Marching Aztecs!

As this our motto states, we are “Fueled by Fire / Powered by Pride”. Individually, each of you have made the decision to pursue your musical and artistic talents to grow and learn as a musician here at San Diego State University. This season we can and will use that dedication to show off our talents and school pride in record numbers.



We are excited for another eventful season. With a combination of great music, drills, and venues planned we will continue to awe the audience and drive our teams to greatness. We will continue to challenge and entertain *ourselves*, while performing the music our faithful fans and supporters have come to love and expect. As college students, your time is valuable. To that end, we will continue to rehearse a mere 5.5 hours per week, allowing you to maintain your demanding academic, professional and social schedule, while providing the Marching Aztecs Staff the opportunity to teach with a high retention value, resulting in a polished and entertaining show.

As we make our way through Band Camp '15, and the first weeks of the season, rehearsals may seem intense and even overwhelming. However, we ask that everyone stay enthusiastic and upbeat, and always HAVE A BLAST. You are a major part of the “college football experience” and your energy and enthusiasm is contagious –something that should never be forgotten.

I am extremely excited to get going. We have a great performance schedule and awesome tunes that are sure to bring good memories and a successful season. Welcome to Aztec Fire 2014!

Sincerely,
“Coach” Ransom

*Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.
~Henry Ford*

2015 MARCHING AZTEC STAFF AND STUDENT LEADERS

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

DIRECTOR OF BANDS – Bryan “Coach” Ransom
DIRECTOR OF MARCHING PERCUSSION – Tohbias Juniel
COLOR GUARD INSTRUCTORS – Michele Whalley and Earnest Wallace
FEATURE TWIRLER ADVISOR – Catherine Watters
DANCE TEAM INSTRUCTORS – Carrie Smith, Dean Cortez, Kaitlin Collins
GRADUATE ASSISTANT – Abbie Weaver

STUDENT STAFF:

BAND MANAGER – Nicole Castro (bandmanager.sdsu@gmail.com)
UNIFORM MANAGER – Joe and Laura Butler
EQUIPMENT MANAGER – Brandon Weber

SECTION LEADERS:

FLUTE- Sun Rolon
CLARINET – Christian Lozano
ALTO SAX – Andrew Black
LOW WWs – Helen Humphrey
HORN – Mitchell Llavore
TRUMPET – Anthony Savitt
TROMBONE – James Caestecker
BARITONE – Marissa Papet
SOUSAPHONE – Kevin Lomes
DRUMLINE MANAGER – Jessica Dubose
GUARD CAPTAIN – Jo Jo Alex and Jazmin Holguin
GUARD MANAGER – Ivan Flores
GUARD MARKETING MANAGER – Karina Afshari
TWIRLER CAPTAIN – McKenna Ledesma
DANCE CAPTAINS – Alyssa Moscrop and Shanna Ned

HELPFUL HINTS FOR NEW (AND RETURNING) MARCHERS

Step 1: Sign up for the Class!

Go to your Webportal account - register for "Marching Band":

Freshmen or Sophomores: MUSIC 175

Juniors, Seniors, Grad Students: MUSIC 375

(add codes available from Nicole if needed)

ADD/DROP DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

For Extended Studies (non-SDSU students)

1. Log onto <http://www.ces.sdsu.edu>
2. Search for "Program/Course Search" **BAND**
3. Click the red "Marching Band" link
4. Click "Enroll Now" button
5. Follow steps from there (create red ID, etc.)

CROSS ENROLLMENT will allow non-SDSU students to enroll at a greatly-reduced rate. However, students need to meet several specific program qualifications, including (but not limited to) at least one term completed at another community college, CSU, or UC, currently enrolled (will be enrolled in the fall) in 6 until or more at that school, earned a 2.0 GPA last term at that same school, etc. A complete list of qualifications and conditions can be found on the form below.

Process (in this order):

1. Obtain form from Nicole
2. Fill out top section
3. Bring form to their "home campus" admissions office (UCSD, Grossmont College, etc.) to have "Home Campus Certification" area filled out.
4. Bring form to SDSU Office of the Registrar

Step 2: Attend All Practices and Performances!

If you will be perpetually late to practices because you have a class that ends at 3:50, you need to send a detailed message to Band Manager Nicole by September 4th, 2015. Send EMAIL to bandmanager.sdsu@gmail.com which includes your name, class name, class time, schedule number, days, and instructor's name.

Excused absences or tardies may be made up (outside events and gigs, etc.) Illness with a doctor's note is excused. Please reference your syllabus for more information. Only students who qualify for a passing grade will receive their stipends at the end of the semester!!!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

REHEARSALS: MWF 4:00-5:50

The SDSU Bands Website:
www.bands.sdsu.edu

facebook

The Marching Aztecs
<http://www.facebook.com/marchingaztecs>

twitter

@marchingaztecs
<http://twitter.com/marchingaztecs>

The SDSU Ensembles Office Phone:
619-594-1600

Rainy days do not equal cancelled rehearsals!
Check the website/FB/Twitter for rainy day rehearsal information.

Check the Marching Band Bulletin Board outside of the Band Office for an up-to-date schedule for each practice and all games.



UNIFORM INFORMATION



YOUR UNIFORM:

- Jacket
- Pants
- Side Cape
- Uniform bag
- Shako
- Hat Box
- Plume
- Feather

You are responsible for the upkeep of your assigned uniform throughout the season! Don't just throw your uniform in the trunk after a game.... hang it up!



You will also receive a Marching Aztecs band shirt and a baseball cap. This shirt is used as a secondary uniform for certain performances, rehearsals, and events. Ball caps are to be worn at all times in the stands at games.

You will need matte black marching shoes (not provided)

If you have black marching shoes from high school, they will probably work. If you need to order, allow 2 weeks for shipping, and make sure to order the right half-size...we do a LOT of marching! We recommend: Speedsters, Drillmasters, or Dinkles. You also need **BLACK SOCKS**. Full length (not half-socks).

You will also need white gloves for every performance.

If you need gloves, Joe sells them for \$3 a pair (\$3.25 if you're using a credit card) and you can purchase them from him when you check out your uniform.

2015 BAND CAMP ACTIVITIES AND THEMES

Date:	Activity/ Location:	Theme of the day:
Monday 8/17		
Tuesday 8/18	Yogurtland Fundraiser (anytime after Band Camp)	High School Spirit Day
Wednesday 8/19	Trujillo's Fundraiser (lunch) Swimming at Aquaplex (5pm)	On Wednesdays We Wear Pink
Thursday 8/20	Game Night – (5pm)	Dress Like Your Section Leader Day
Friday 8/21	Bonfire at Mission Beach	SDSU Spirit Day Red/Black/White mandatory



JOINT STATEMENT OF TAU BETA SIGMA, SIGMA ALPHA IOTA, AND PHI MU ALPHA SINFONIA

We firmly believe that there are equally important roles for Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Tau Beta Sigma to fulfill on any campus where our chapters mutually exist, now or in the future. Each organization possesses a distinct mission and, as a result, fulfills a unique and vital role in the musical environment of a college campus. It is not acceptable for any of our organizations' members, chapters, or local leaders to take actions that would inhibit the creation or success of any of these organizations at any campus. We believe it is important that the members of our organizations recognize and respect each group's purpose, rich history, and valued place in the framework of colleges and universities throughout the country. Furthermore, we expect our members to demonstrate their respect for each other through genuine friendships and honest cooperation to further the advancement of music and the success of our respective goals.

Joint membership in more than one of our organizations is permissible, subject to only one simple requirement: the single-gender membership of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Sigma Alpha Iota. A member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia or Sigma Alpha Iota can hold simultaneous membership in Tau Beta Sigma, subject to his/her own interests and the eligibility requirements of the other organizations. The same holds true for a member of Tau Beta Sigma with regard to membership in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia or Sigma Alpha Iota.

The national leaders of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Sigma Alpha Iota, and Tau Beta Sigma expect that all members will work to maintain a consistently positive inter-fraternal spirit. We encourage all of our members to honor this commitment as each of our organizations seeks to provide an excellent fraternal experience.





2015 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(current as of Aug. 13, 2015)

(updated schedule found at <http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/bands/calendar>)

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday	April 11, 2015	9am-12pm	Feature Twirler Auditions	PG620 + Band Office
Fri - Sat	April 24-25	10am-7pm	Dance Team Auditions	ARC
Saturday	May 23, 2015	10am-7pm	Color Guard Auditions	Music Building +
Sunday	August 9, 2015	Noon-1:30pm	New Music Reading Session (optional)	Smith Recital Hall
	August 9, 2015	2pm-3:30pm	Rookie Marching Camp (optional)	Field Behind Music Bldg.
Mon-Fri	August 10-14	9am-3pm	Drumline Auditions/Camp	Music 114
Mon-Fri	August 17-21	8am-4pm	Band Camp '15	Music Building +
Friday	August 21, 2015	11am-12Noon	Marching Aztecs Preview Performance	Hardy Tower
	August 9, 2015	8:30pm-11pm	Templo Del Sol Performance (Drumline)	Hardy Tower
Saturday	August 22, 2015	8:30am-10am	New Student Convocation/Band Run	Cuic Dorms +
Monday	August 24, 2015	All day	First Day of Classes - Fall 2015	SDSU
Thursday	September 3, 2015	11:45-12:30pm	March to the Arch	Hardy Tower
Saturday	September 5, 2015	3pm call	Game #1 vs. USD	Qualcomm Stadium
Thursday	September 17, 2015	11:45-12:30pm	March to the Arch	Hardy Tower
Saturday	September 19, 2015	12 Noon	Band Photo Shoot	Hardy Tower
	September 19, 2015	3pm call	Game #2 vs. South Alabama	Qualcomm Stadium
Thursday	October 1, 2015	11:45-12:30pm	March to the Arch	Hardy Tower
Saturday	October 3, 2015	5:30pm call	Game #3 vs. Fresno St.	Qualcomm Stadium
Saturday	October 17, 2015	afternoon+eve	Exhibition performances (2) at Poway Invit.	Poway HS
Thursday	October 22, 2015	11:45-12:30pm	March to the Arch	Hardy Tower
Friday	October 23, 2015	5:30pm call	Game #4 vs. Utah St.	Qualcomm Stadium
Sunday	October 25, 2015	10am call	Exhibition at Chargers vs. Raiders game	Qualcomm Stadium
Saturday	November 7, 2015	afternoon+eve	Exhibition performances (2) at Mira Mesa	Mira Mesa HS
Thursday	November 12, 2015	11:45-12:30pm	March to the Arch	Hardy Tower
Saturday	November 14, 2015	5:30pm call	Game #5 vs. Wyoming	Qualcomm Stadium
Saturday	November 28, 2015	t.b.d.	Game #6 vs. Nevada	Qualcomm Stadium
Saturday	December 5, 2015	t.b.d.	***tentative - MWC Championship Game	Qualcomm Stadium



FALL 2015 SYLLABUS / ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICY

Semester grades are based entirely upon engagement and class participation. Full participation from each individual at EVERY rehearsal and performance is crucial to the success of the group. Emergencies do arise and the grading policy allows for unforeseen occurrences. Funerals, family emergencies, illness and other emergencies are accounted for on an individual basis. Work conflicts, travel arrangements, outside class activities and scheduled medical appointments are NOT excusable.

All students begin the semester with ZERO points (grade of A). As tardies and absences accumulate they are converted into points and then are added up and given a letter grade. The following chart explains the point system regarding tardies, absences, emergencies, and make-ups. **Failure to meet minimum passing standards in band (C- or better) will make you ineligible for the Marching Band stipend.**

• Absence	-3 points
• Tardy ¹	-1 point
• Leaving Rehearsal Early	-1 point
• Missing Instrument	-1 point
• No Music	-1 point
• No Gloves (or other missing uni part)	-3 points
• Inappropriate Rehearsal Behavior	-1 to -3 points
• Excused Absence ²	-2 points
• Excused Missed Performance ³	-6 points
• Unexcused Missed Performance	-14 points
• Emergency Missed Performance ⁴	-0 points
• Wind Symphony/Orchestra Concert ⁵	+3 points ⁵
• Volunteer Office Work	(points vary based on time/task) ⁶
• Volunteer Equipment Work	(points vary based on time/task) ⁶
• Volunteer Gig or Event	(points vary based on time/event) ⁶

¹ A student is considered tardy if they are not prepared to rehearse or perform when the director begins the rehearsal.

² An excused absence is any absence from a rehearsal that was approved by the director prior to the rehearsal.

³ An excused missed performance must be approved by the director prior to the Last Day to Drop.

⁴ This must be a serious and verifiable event. The student must notify the director immediately following the date in question and must bring documentation if possible.

⁵ Not available for Wind Symphony/Orchestra members. Once per semester for members of other ensembles.

⁶ Students may raise their grade a maximum of 3 places (e.g. from a C+ to a B+) *but no further than an A-*.

GRADES

A = 0 to -3 points	A- = -4 to -6 points	B+ = -7 points
B = -8 points	B- = -9 points	C+ = -10 points
C = -11 points	C- = -12 points	D+ = -13 points
D = -14 points	D- = -15 points	F = -16 or more

Attendance is taken at the beginning of the rehearsal. Anyone not in his or her seat or spot in the attendance block is marked as ABSENT. Anyone in his or her seat or attendance block but not ready to go is marked as Tardy. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Band Manager that you in fact were present. The grade will then change from -3 (Absence) to -1 (Tardy). If you fail to let the director know at the end of the rehearsal of this change then your grade will remain an Absent (-3).

STUDENT OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to read, rehearse, and perform music literature and pageantry content appropriate for their ability level and ensemble instrumentation. Students will be able to perform in public an amount of music that is commensurate with their performance ability and the level of their musical development. Students will demonstrate an increase in focus, concentration, and self-discipline through physical and mental readiness.

The SDSU Bands policy on alcohol and drugs is consistent with the University and State guidelines; additionally, no substances are to be consumed while in uniform, or in the 8 hours prior to a rehearsal or performance. Period. Anyone found under the influence is subject to lifetime dismissal from all University Bands and possible expulsion from the University.

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact Student Disability Services at [\(619\) 594-6473](tel:619-594-6473). To avoid any delay in the receipt of your accommodations, you should contact Student Disability Services as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive, and that accommodations based upon disability cannot be provided until you have presented your instructor with an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services.

ADDITIONAL SDSU INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

VARSITY BAND

The Varsity Band performs for the Women's Basketball Team. Membership is open to all marching band members (marching instrumentation), with consent of Coach Ransom. The group carries a two-semester commitment, with performance over the Winter Break. Rehearsals are Monday evenings, 6:30 to 8:20, beginning September 8. Game performances are any night during the week (full schedule released soon).

PEP BAND

The Pep Band performs for Men's Basketball. Auditions are set for Wednesday, Sept. 3rd at 6:30pm. All members must audition. The group carries a two-semester commitment, with performance over the Winter Break. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 6:30 to 8:20, beginning September 10. Game performances are any night during the week (full schedule released soon).

DRUMLINE/GUARD/DANCE COURSE

Enrolled members of the Marching Aztecs Drumline, Color Guard, and Dance Team can enroll in this course, which covers your additional rehearsal / sectional time.

WIND SYMPHONY

Auditions are held the first 2 days of classes.

Visit http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/bands_orchestra/auditions to download audition music and schedule a time. The Wind Symphony rehearses T/Th from 2-3:15, and Friday from 2-3:50.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Auditions are held the first 2 days of classes.

Visit http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/bands_orchestra/auditions to download audition music and schedule a time. The Orchestra rehearses M/W from 2-3:50, and Thursday from 2-3:15.

SYMPHONIC BAND

No audition required. Rehearsals T/Th from 7-8:15pm

JAZZ ENSEMBLES

For information, visit <http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/jazz>

CHORAL ENSEMBLES

For information, visit http://music.sdsu.edu/index.php/performing_groups/choral

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

ALMA MATER

**Hail, Montezuma,
We with loyal hearts our homage pay;
Proud, working, and glorying,
In the spirit of the Aztec name;
To thee, San Diego,
And the fond traditions old and new,
A tribute raised in lasting praise and steadfast faith;
HAIL! MONTEZUMA.**

**Hail, Montezuma,
We salute thy glorious destiny;
Far seeing in coming days,
Men and women strong who live in truth;
To thee, San Diego,
To the Black and Scarlet we'll be true;
An echo comes from Aztec drums through all the years;
HAIL! MONTEZUMA.**

FIGHT SONG

**Fight on and on ye Aztecs then,
Mighty Montezuma, we will win again
Keep your spirits high, never bow a knee
We will fight till victory!**

**Fight on and on ye Aztecs then,
Proudly raise your banners high
For it's the Red and Black, hail to our team
San Diego Aztecs Fight!
S - D - S - U - SDSU AZTECS FIGHT!**