

## PROJECT SUGGESTIONS—Freshman Seminar, Spring 2007

Making an Instrument. The possibilities range from crude and simple versions up to concert-quality (very time-consuming!) instruments. You should think about the design and implementation problems and aim at understanding and explaining the resulting playing and sound characteristics. Also try to explain what notes the instrument plays, whether it can play a scale, and whether it can be tuned.

String: Construct your own original design, or assemble a commercially available kit.

Percussion: Use your imagination, and try unusual ingredients.

Flute: Plastic garden hose, bamboo, PVC irrigation pipe, or even a good piece of hardwood are all possible construction materials. If you want a handout with a discussion of the problem of where to place the holes, please ask the instructor. See also the book by Trevor Robinson, *The Amateur Wind Instrument Maker*, probably at the library.

Other wind instruments: See Arthur Benade's book, *Horns, Strings, and Harmony* (required text and on reserve in library), Chapter X, for other ideas.

**NOTE: I can reimburse you for \$1 to \$30 of expenses used for parts to build your instrument, if you keep the receipts and submit them to me.**