

MUAG 5850.002 / MUAG 3870.001 INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING

Spring Semester 2025
Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 am – 10:50 am
MPAC 132 (IRR)

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description and Purpose

To continue to develop the knowledge and skills appropriate to professional conducting. The course will include instruction in intermediate conducting techniques, score study, rehearsal preparation and delivery, visual/aural discrimination skills, alternative movement approaches, and a reinforcement of essential musicianship. To summarize: students will study expressive gesture, critical listening, and effective rehearsal techniques.

Course Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate efficient and expressive body carriage
- Demonstrate effective baton technique
- Demonstrate the following techniques:
 - Preparatory gestures, downbeats, and releases.
 - Patterns for various meters, including duple/triple, simple/compound.
 - Representation of a diversity of styles.
 - Representation of dynamic indications.
 - Independent and complimentary use of right and left arms-hand complex.
 - Entrances on beats other than one and incomplete beats.
 - Diversity of gestural vocabulary in the service of cues and more.
 - Representation of a diversity of tempos and transitions.
- Evaluate conducting techniques by:
 - Observing and evaluating videotaped conducting experiences.
 - Observing and evaluating class members.
 - Evaluating two different conductors of various ensembles in rehearsal.
 - Evaluating two different conductors of various ensembles in concert.
- Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills through rehearsal situations
- Describe the role of the conductor in historical and philosophical perspectives
- Refine the essential skills of musicianship in a conducting context.
- Internalize transpositions and their use in score reading through independent exercises and assignments.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze a score with a focus on interpretation and rehearsal techniques.

Course Organization

Moving with Meaning

Part 1A

Meaning: Internalizing the Score Mentally (Weeks 1–2)

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Part 1B

Moving: Maximizing Expressive Movement (Weeks 3–4)

Part 2

Moving with Meaning: Externalizing the Score through Movement (Weeks 5–15)

Required Resources

For success in the course, each student must have the following materials:

- Baton (subject to instructor approval)
- Course/score material packet (provided)
- Smartphone or personal video recording device
- Your major or secondary instrument as determined by the instructor

Pre-Requisites

MUAG 3800 or transfer equivalent, as determined by the conducting faculty.

MUTH 1380/1480/1390/1490/2380/2480/2390/2490.

Successful completion of the qualifying entrance examination for MUAG 3870.

Concurrent Enrollment

MULB 1806, MULB 1807, MULB 1813 or MULB 5173.500, .501, or .502

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is expected for all scheduled classes. The nature of a conducting course requires active participation and interaction among all class members at all times. Absence from class on a pre-assigned conducting day will result in the student being passed over for that conducting sequence, with a grade of 0 or no credit. Excused absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are best communicated in advance. End-of-semester juries are not an excused absence from class.

Absences will result in a lowering of the final grade as follows:

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1 | No effect |
| 2-3 | reduction of 1 letter grade |
| 4-5 | reduction of 2 letter grades |
| 6+ | grade of WF if withdrawal requested or final grade of F |

Grading Scale

100–90	A
89–80	B
79–70	C
69–60	D
60 or below	F

Written Assignments and Tests: Individual written work pertinent to the lecture material will be assigned as needed. Examples include self-evaluation of conducting experiences, as well as rehearsal observations of professional conductors, as outlined below:

Rehearsal Observations: Each student is required to submit two completed rehearsal observations, each reflecting thirty minutes spent in a MAJOR university or professional (conducted) ensemble rehearsal.

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All reports must be typed: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and all margins 1 inch. The length of the typed assignments must be a minimum of one page, and a maximum of two pages with the above guidelines followed. For full credit, this assignment must be turned in at the beginning of class on the given due date. Please see the section on Rehearsal Observations for more details of content and due dates.

Score Study and Analysis Projects: Students will be introduced to the score study and analysis process, with a culminating project that demonstrates comprehensions and application. More details to follow.

Weekly Conducting Assignments: Weekly conducting exercises and excerpts will be assigned and evaluated. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpts in class with the class members as the ensemble. The student must provide a method to record their conducting turn.

The following scores will serve as the core curriculum of the course; for each conducting round, students will be assigned a particular piece (or movement as appropriate) and then assignments will rotate each round. Special care will be made to focus on particular areas of growth as well as diversity of repertoire for each conductor. Additional scores may be assigned as well.

Divertimento, Op. 42 by Vincent Persichetti
Lincolnshire Posy by Percy Aldridge Grainger
First Suite in E-flat by Gustav Holst
Expanding the Canon Excerpt Book
UNT Conductors Collegium Excerpt Book

Final Conducting Examination: The final week of class (April 29 and May 1, 2025) will be used for the final conducting projects.

Grading Procedures

The final grade is based on the following criteria.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Conducting Experiences	60%
Written Assignments and Tests	25%
Final Conducting Exam	15%

See the above section on Attendance for details about how absences will affect the final grade.

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Official University Information

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

Academic Integrity

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

Link: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

Student Behavior

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

Access to Information – Eagle Connect

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Registration Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, Spring 2025

See: [Spring 2025 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2025

See above

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

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Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

Counseling and Testing

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

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Add/Drop Policy

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

Student Resources

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

Care Team

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>