



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002
FALL, 2015

Instructor:

Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies
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Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137
940-565-3732 (office)

Office Hours:

by appointment

Textbook:

No textbook. Certain score copies may be provided by instructor; you are welcome to purchase your own scores – consult instructor for advice on editions. Most public domain scores may be downloaded online at: http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page

Materials:

- Baton
- 3-ring binder
- Your Instrument

Course Description:

This course is designed for the development of a professional conducting approach and will include instruction on orchestral conducting techniques and pedagogy, score analysis and preparation, development of visual/aural discrimination skills, transposition skills, the role of the conductor in historical perspective, and a review of basic musicianship.

Expected Outcomes:

Students will have made significant improvements in knowledge and ability in the following areas:

1. Physical technique of conducting.
2. Score study and analysis.
3. Orchestral repertoire.
4. Knowledge of orchestral instruments and mainstream audition excerpts.
5. Rehearsal technique.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Outcomes:

1. Instructor's assessment of improvement in physical technique of conducting.
2. Instructor's assessment of improvement in accompanying and other related techniques.
3. Instructor's assessment of the student's score study.
4. Instructor's assessment of improvement and knowledge of orchestral instruments and other related issues.

Course Requirements:

Conducting:

Students will receive a grade each time they conduct from the podium. The major portion of the grade will pertain to how well the student knows the score. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpt in class with the class members as the ensemble. Absence from class on a pre-assigned conducting assignment will result in the student being passed over for that conducting sequence, with a grade of zero or no credit. The instructor, in advance of the absence, may approve exceptions. The opportunity to make up a missed conducting assignment will be at the discretion of the instructor and will be rare.

Attendance and Class Participation:

Attendance is expected for all scheduled classes. The nature of the course requires active participation and interaction among all class members at all times. Absences will result in a lowering of the final grade as follows:

2	no change
3	reduction of 1 letter grade
4	reduction of 2 letter grades
5	reduction of 3 letter grades
6(+)	grade of WF if withdrawal is requested, or final grade of F

*Each tardy will be counted as ½ an absence

Written and Reading Assignments:

Students must acquire a 3-ring binder for scores as well as accumulated written and reading assignments. Written assignments are to be turned in on white 8½ x 11 paper, typewritten, with three-hole punches for binder.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

The Cambridge Companion to Conducting, edited by José Antonio Bowen. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

- The Rise of Conducting – [Reading Assignment #1: Aug. 28]
- The Central European Tradition – [Reading Assignment #2: Sept. 4]
- The French Tradition – [Reading Assignment #3: Sept. 11]
- The Italian Tradition – [Reading Assignment #4: Sept. 18]
- The American Tradition – [Reading Assignment #5: Sept. 25]
- The English Tradition – [Reading Assignment #6: Oct. 2]
- The Russian Tradition – [Reading Assignment #7: Oct. 4]

Berlioz, Hector: *On Conducting: Theory of the Art of Conducting*, found in *Treatise on Instrumentation*. New York: Kalmus, 1948. [Reading Assignment #8: Oct. 23]

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Rehearsal Observations

Each student is required to submit three rehearsal observations, each reflecting forty-five minutes spent in a university or professional (conducted) orchestra rehearsal. All reports must be typed double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and all margins 1 inch. The length must be a minimum of one page and a maximum of two pages.

For each rehearsal observation, isolate one rehearsal technique used by the conductor and give the following information: (1) Description of the technique used; (2) Problem the technique was intended to solve or improve; (3) Name of work being rehearsed and location within the piece where the technique was used; (4) Your observation of the success of using the particular technique.

For full credit, the assignment must be turned in during class on the following due dates:

1st Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, October 16**

2nd Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, October 30**

Electronic submissions are not accepted. Correct spelling and the use of the English language is expected. In your observation, consider the following:

1. Baton (or hand) technique
Is it clear/understandable?
Is it effective musically?
Is it visible?
2. Verbalizations
Does the conductor talk too much?
Do the performers respond well to the conductor's instructions?
Was the conductor professional in his/her comments?
3. Rehearsal technique
Is there a plan to the rehearsal?
Is the ensemble's interest focused on the music?
Is there an opportunity to relax in rehearsal?
What was accomplished during the rehearsal?
4. Musicality
Does the conductor insist upon dynamics, accents, phrasing, and rhythmic exactitude?
Were the balances correct, solo lines brought out, and/or supporting lines appropriate?
Were intonation discrepancies addressed?
Did the conductor insist on the correct style of each work?

Grading:

Attendance; In-Class Conducting Experience	40%
Reading Assignments	20%
Written Assignments	20%
Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra (Monday, November 23; 12:15-2:05pm)	20%

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

The use of activated cellular telephones or audible pagers is not allowed in the class at any time. Please be sure they are deactivated before the class begins.

Office of Disability Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

Financial Aid 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 registered hours per term. 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.

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. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for 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 being doing so.

Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (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. 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. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/satisfactory-academic-progress-requirements> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It may be wise for 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 being doing so.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is defined in the UNT Policy on Student Standards for Academic Integrity. Any suspected case of Academic Dishonesty will be handled in accordance with the University Policy and procedures. Possible academic penalties range from a verbal or written admonition to a grade of "F" in the course. Further sanctions may apply to incidents involving major violations. You will find the policy and procedures at: <http://vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm>.

Student Behavior in the Classroom

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at: www.unt.edu/csrr.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August	24	Introduction; Review Syllabus
	26	Exercises and Discussion
	28	Exercises and Discussion; Reading Assignment #1 Due
	31	In-Class Conducting Assignment
September	2	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	4	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #2 Due
	7	No Class [Labor Day]
	9	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	11	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #3 Due
	14	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	16	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	18	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #4 Due
	21	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	23	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	25	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #5 Due
October	28	Discussion
	30	Discussion
	2	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #6 Due
	4	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	7	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	9	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Assignment #7 Due
	11	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	14	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	16	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Rehearsal Observation #1 Due
	18	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	21	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	23	In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #8 Due
	25	Day Off
	28	Discussion
November	30	Discussion; Rehearsal Observation #2 Due
	2	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	4	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	6	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	9	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	11	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	13	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	16	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	18	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	20	In-Class Conducting Assignment
	23	Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra [12:15pm-2:05pm]
December	25	No Class [Thanksgiving]
	27	No Class [Thanksgiving]
	30	Review One-On-One: Final Conducting Exam
	2	Review One-On-One: Final Conducting Exam
	4	Review One-On-One: Final Conducting Exam