



FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING MUAG 3800, SECTION 002 FALL, 2015

Instructor	Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies
Office	Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137 940-565-3732 (Voicemail answered 24 hours) clay.couturiaux@unt.edu
Office hours	by appointment
Required Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Modern Conductor</i>, 7th edition, by Elizabeth A. H. Green• 12" to 14" baton• 3-ring binder• Primary instrument (secondary instruments as requested)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Fundamentals of Conducting is a course designed for the development of a professional conducting approach. The course will include instruction on beginning and intermediate 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.

PREREQUISITES

Junior in good standing
Successful completion of MUTH 2500/2510

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance 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 affect
- 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

Conducting Assignments

Weekly conducting assignments will be given and graded. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpts 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.

Written Assignments

Individual written work pertinent to the lecture material will be assigned as needed. Examples include transposition assignments, article summaries, and analyses.

Rehearsal Observations

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations, each reflecting forty-five minutes spent in a university or professional (conducted) ensemble rehearsal. The student must be an observer and not a member of the ensemble. The reports must represent two different performing mediums (choral, major jazz ensemble, orchestral, or winds) as well as different conductors.

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. Failure to complete this requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade by one letter grade. For full credit, the assignment must be turned in during class on the following due dates:

1st Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, September 18, 2015**

2nd Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, November 6, 2015**

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?

Concert Observations

Each student is required to submit two concert observations of conducted performances. The student must observe from the audience and may not be a performer during any portion of the concert. The reports must represent two different performing mediums (choral, major jazz ensemble, orchestral, or winds) as well as different conductors.

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. Failure to complete this requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade by one letter grade.

For full credit, the assignment including a program of the concert must be turned in during class on the following due dates:

1st Concert Observation – **Friday, October 9, 2015**

2nd Concert Observation – **Monday, November 30, 2015**

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

1. Stage Presence

How does the conductor enter the stage?

How does the conductor acknowledge the audience and the performers?

What does the conductor do between movements of a multi-movement work?

How does the conductor acknowledge soloists or featured sections?

How does the conductor acknowledge the entire ensemble?

How does the conductor exit the stage?

2. Baton (or hand) technique

Is it clear/understandable?

Is it effective musically?

Is it visible?

3. Musicality

In what ways does the conductor enable the musical performance? (mechanics, musicianship, etc.)

How does the conductor visibly communicate style and musicianship to the ensemble?

Other general observations.

Written Exams

Tests include questions pertaining to *The Modern Conductor* and class discussions.

Test I (Chapters I-V)

Friday, September 25, 2015

Test II (Chapters VI-X)

Friday, October 23, 2015

Test III (Chapters XI-XVI)

Friday, November 20, 2015

Terms Quiz #1

Friday, August 28, 2015

Terms Quiz #2

Friday, October 2, 2015

Terms Quiz #3

Friday, October 30, 2015

The average of the three terms quizzes will count the same as one written exam. If you do not take a test on the designated day, your test grade will automatically be dropped by one letter grade.

**Final
Conducting
Exam**

Wednesday, December 9, 2015

8:00am-10:00am

GRADING

Conducting Demonstration	40%
Written Exams	30%
Written Assignments	15%
Final Conducting Exam	15%

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.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Terminology
 - Basic musical terminology, definitions, practical applications
 - Instruments in French, German, Italian
 - Instrument abbreviations
2. Transpositions
 - Knowledge of standard instrument transpositions
 - Ability to transpose from concert pitch to transposed pitch
 - Ability to transpose from transposed pitch to concert pitch
3. Aural Skills
 - Techniques in application of aural skills for the conductor
 - Introduction to singing instrument parts
 - Part singing of individual instrument lines
4. Score Reading
 - Types of scores
 - Score order – Orchestral, Band, Choral
 - Score interpretation
5. Fundamentals of Conducting
 - Basic patterns
 - Baton grip
 - Posture
 - Cueing
 - Left hand independence
 - Basic style considerations of staccato, marcato, legato, tenuto
 - Fermata, caesura
 - Preparatory beat
 - Tempo
6. Performance Practice
 - Familiarity with famous and influential conductors throughout history
 - Application of basic style differences
7. Observations of Rehearsals
8. Observations of Concerts

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August	24	Introduction; Review Syllabus; Conducting Posture; Five Basic Beat Patterns
	26	Basic Time-Beating; Exercises
	28	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]; Terms Quiz #1 [Terms of a General Nature]
September	31	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	2	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	4	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	7	No Class [Labor Day]
	9	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	11	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	14	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	16	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	18	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]; 1st Rehearsal Observation Due
	21	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	23	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
October	25	Written Exam #1 [Chapters 1-5 and Class Discussions]
	28	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	30	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	2	Terms Quiz #2 [Terms Affecting the Tempo and Time-Beating]; Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	5	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	7	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	9	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]; 1st Concert Observation Due
	12	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	14	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	16	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	19	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	21	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	23	Written Exam #2 [Chapters 6-10 and Class Discussions]
	26	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
November	28	Clefs and Transpositions
	30	Terms Quiz #3 [Terms Affecting the Handling of the Instruments Themselves]; Score Study and Score Marking; Transposition Assignment Due
	2	Expressive Gestures; Melding; Left Hand; Phrasing [excerpt 24]
	4	Expressive Gestures; Melding; Left Hand; Phrasing [excerpt 24]
	6	Expressive Gestures; Melding; Left Hand; Phrasing [excerpt 24]; 2nd Rehearsal Observation Due
	9	Expressive Gestures; Melding; Left Hand; Phrasing [excerpt 24]
	11	Expressive Gestures; Melding; Left Hand; Phrasing [excerpt 24]
	13	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 25]
	16	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 25]
	18	Review for Written Exam#3; Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 25]
	20	Written Exam #3 [Chapters 11-16 and Class Discussions]
	23	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 25]
	25	No Class [Thanksgiving]
December	27	No Class [Thanksgiving]
	30	Final Conducting Assignment; 2nd Concert Observation Due
	2	Final Conducting Assignment
	9	Final Conducting Exam