



FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING
MUAG 3800.002; MUAG 5805.001
FALL, 2020

Instructor Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies

Office Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137
clay.couturiaux@unt.edu

Course Content:

The Fundamentals of Conducting course is designed for the development of a professional conducting approach. The course will cover beginning and intermediate conducting techniques, score analysis and preparation, development of visual and aural skills, and transposition skills.

Required materials:

- (1) Fundamentals of Conducting workbook. [Provided by instructor.]
- (2) Baton.
- (3) Primary instrument (secondary instruments as requested)
- (4) SD card (8 GB minimum) or video recording device.

Course Purpose:

This course partially fulfills requirements undergraduate degrees for music majors.

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 transpositions.
4. Aural skills.

Course Requirements and expectations:

This is a *skills based course*, so regular attendance is essential. (See specifics regarding class attendance on page 2.) Regular and thorough preparation for class is also required; this means *thorough* preparation of class conducting materials before each class session as well as practice of individual parts *before* each class session.

Course Times and Location:

M W F; 9:00am – 9:50am; College of Music Room 232

Final Written Exam:

Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 8:00am-10:00am [online]

Grading: Conducting Assignments (cumulative) 40%; Terms Quizzes (cumulative) 10%;

Written Exams (other than final, cumulative) 20%; Final Written Exam 10%; Final Conducting Exam 10%;

Rehearsal and Concert Observations 10%.

PREREQUISITES

Junior (or higher) 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

COVID-19 impact on attendance

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me *prior to being absent* as to what may be preventing you from coming to class so I may make a decision about accommodating your request to be excused from class. If you are experiencing cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, or any of the other possible symptoms of COVID-19 (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

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.

Rehearsal Observations

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations from the YouTube links listed in Canvas.

All reports must be completed and submitted into Canvas by the deadlines listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The length must be a minimum of 700 words. Failure to complete the minimum word requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade for the observation by one letter grade. 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 from the YouTube links listed in Canvas.

All reports must be completed and submitted into Canvas by the deadlines listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The length must be a minimum of 700 words. Failure to complete the minimum word requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade for the observation by one letter grade. 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. Musicianship
 - 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.

Terms Quizzes

Six terms quizzes will coincide with Terms Lists in the Fundamentals of Conducting workbook.

Written Exams

Tests include questions pertaining to class discussions and the Fundamentals of Conducting workbook.

Final Conducting Exam

Exam includes excerpts conducted throughout the session.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

August	24	•Course and syllabus overview; anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; conducting areas/planes; five basic conducting patterns; discussion of the “four hinges”; basics of transpositions
	26	•Anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; conducting areas/planes; five basic conducting patterns; discussion of the “four hinges”; basics of transpositions
	28	•Anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; conducting areas/planes; five basic conducting patterns; discussion of the “four hinges”; basics of transpositions
September	31	•Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	2	•Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	4	•Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5] •Terms Quiz #1 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	7	No Class [Labor Day]
	9	•Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	11	•Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7] •Rehearsal Observation #1 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	14	•Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	16	•Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	18	•Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7] •Terms Quiz #2 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	21	•Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	23	•Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	25	•Separation of hands exercises. •Written Exam #1 -- Basic conducting concepts; transpositions; terms, all concepts discussed to this point. [due in Canvas by 10:00pm]
	28	•Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	30	•Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
October	2	•Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17] •Terms Quiz #3 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	5	•Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	7	•Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	9	•Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17] •Concert Observation #1 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	12	•Baton grip and use. •Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	14	•Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	16	•Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5] •Score study discussion. •Terms Quiz #4 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	19	•Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	21	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23]
	23	•Separation of hands exercises. •Written Exam #2 – Concepts re expressive gestures, cueing, and separation of hands, transpositions, plus all material from Exam #1. [due in Canvas by 10:00pm]
	26	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23]
	28	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23]
	30	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23] •Terms Quiz #5 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
November	2	•Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]
	4	•Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27] •Rehearsal Observation #2 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	6	•Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]

	9	•Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]
November	11	•Review for Final Written Exam and Final Conducting Exam •Terms Quiz #6 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	13	•Final Conducting Exam
	16	•Final Conducting Exam
	18	•Final Conducting Exam
	20	No Class [juries]
	23	No Class [juries]
	25	No Class [juries]
	30	•Concert Observation #2 due in Canvas by 10:00pm
December	2	•Harmonic & Phrase Analysis for Beethoven – Overture to <i>Egmont</i> [excerpt 24] due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	9	•Final Written Exam [in Canvas]; 8:00am-10:00am

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

LINK: Student Code of Conduct - <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

LINK: disability.unt.edu [Phone: (940) 565-4323]

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

LINK: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

LINK: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

LINK: <http://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/fall>

FINANCIAL AID AND SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

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

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

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

COUNSELING AND TESTING

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

ADD/DROP POLICY

LINK: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-registration-guide>

STUDENT RESOURCES

LINK: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf