



FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING MUAG 3800, SECTION 003 SPRING, 2016

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 – **Monday, February 22, 2016**

2nd Rehearsal Observation – **Monday, April 11, 2016**

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 – **Monday, March 21, 2016**

2nd Concert Observation – **Monday, May 2, 2016**

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, February 12, 2016

Test II (Chapters VI-X)

Monday, April 4, 2016

Test III (Chapters XI-XVI)

Friday, April 29, 2016

Terms Quiz #1

Friday, January 29, 2016

Terms Quiz #2

Friday, March 4, 2016

Terms Quiz #3

Friday, April 15, 2016

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, May 11, 2016

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.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

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 Dean of Students 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 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 and how to forward your e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ADA STATEMENT

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 disability.unt.edu. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

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/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. 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 being doing so.

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/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. 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 being doing so.

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 Blackboard 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 at the following link: essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available **April 18th – May 1st** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the spring 2016 semester you will receive an email on **April 18th (12:01 a.m.)** from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via *IASystem* Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

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

January	20	Introduction; Review Syllabus; Conducting Posture; Five Basic Beat Patterns
	22	Basic Time-Beating; Exercises
	25	Basic Time-Beating; Exercises
	27	Basic Time-Beating; Exercises
	29	Terms Quiz #1 [Terms of a General Nature]
February	1	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4];
	3	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	5	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	8	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	10	Basic Time-Beating; 2, 3, 4 patterns [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4]
	12	Written Exam #1 [Chapters 1-5 and Class Discussions]
	15	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	17	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	19	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	22	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]; 1st Rehearsal Observation Due
	24	Basic Time-Beating; 1 pattern, fractional beat preparations [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	26	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	29	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
March	2	Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	4	Terms Quiz #2 [Terms Affecting the Tempo and Time-Beating]; Duple and Triple Division Patterns [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	7	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	9	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	11	Day Off
	21	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]; 1st Concert Observation Due
	23	Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	25	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	28	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	30	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
April	1	Lopsided Time-Beating in Various Tempos [excerpts 18, 19, & 20]
	4	Written Exam #2 [Chapters 6-10 and Class Discussions]
	6	Clefs and Transpositions
	8	Score Study and Score Marking; Transposition Assignment Due
	11	The Recitative [excerpt 21]; 2nd Rehearsal Observation Due
	13	The Recitative [excerpt 21]
	15	Terms Quiz #3 [Terms Affecting the Handling of the Instruments Themselves]; The Recitative [excerpt 21]
	18	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	20	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	22	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	25	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	27	Review for Written Exam#3; Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	29	Written Exam #3 [Chapters 11-16 and Class Discussions]
May	2	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]; 2nd Concert Observation Due
	4	Final Conducting Assignment [excerpt 22]
	11	Final Conducting Exam [8:00am-10:00am]