



**FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING
MUAG 3800, SECTION 001
SUMMER I, 2017**

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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.
- (4) SD card (8 GB minimum).

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:

Monday through Thursday; 10:00am – 11:50am; Murchison Performing Arts Center - Room 021

**Grading: Conducting Assignments (cumulative) 40%; Written Assignments (cumulative) 15%;
Terms Quizzes (cumulative) 15%; Written Exams (cumulative) 20%; Final Conducting Exam 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:

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

*Each tardy will be counted as ½ an absence

Conducting Assignments

Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpts in class with the class members as the ensemble and will receive a grade for each assignment. 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

Select one book from each of the following sections of the Conducting Bibliography attached to this syllabus. For each book, provide a one-page (minimum) to two-page (maximum) summary.

Written Assignment #1 – Conducting Treatises and Textbooks:

Berlioz, Hector: *On Conducting: Theory of the Art of Conducting*, found in *Treatise on Instrumentation*. New York: Kalmus, 1948.

Written Assignment #2 – Conducting Treatises and Textbooks

Written Assignment #3 – Choral Conducting OR Orchestral History and Practice OR Band History and Practice

Written Assignment #4 – Repertoire Guides: Orchestra OR Choir OR Band

Written Assignment #5 – Instruments and Orchestration

All reading assignments are to be presented on the date due in the following format:

Student's Name

Reading Assignment #

Due Date

Description of Assignment.

Terms Quizzes

Six terms quizzes will coincide with the six terms lists attached to this syllabus. Quizzes include Terms of a General Nature, Terms Affecting the Tempo and Time-Beating, and Terms Affecting the Handling of the Instruments Themselves.

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.

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.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

June	5	•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.
	6	•Terms Quiz #1 •Gravity exercises and other basic conceptual work.
	7	•Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	8	•Terms Quiz #2 •Time beating in 1, more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	9	•Time beating in 1, more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7] •Written Assignment #1 Due
	12	•Written Exam #1 -- Basic conducting concepts; review transpositions; terms, all concepts discussed to this point. •Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	13	•Terms Quiz #3 •Separation of hands exercises. •Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	14	•Separation of hands exercises. •Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17] •Written Assignment #2 Due
	15	•Terms Quiz #4 •Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	19	•Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5] •More sophisticated gestures (legato/tenuto/sostenuto, staccato, breathing/cueing gesture, etc.) •Score study discussion.
	20	•Terms Quiz #5 •Separation of hands exercises. •Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	21	•Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5] •Review Clefs and Transpositions •Written Assignment #3 Due
	22	•Terms Quiz #6 •Continue work from previous weeks and review of all excerpts, materials, and concepts.
	26	•Written Exam #2 – Concepts re expressive gestures, cueing, and separation of hands, transpositions, plus all material from Exam #1. •More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, 23, & 24]
	27	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, 23, & 24]
	28	•More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, 23, & 24] •Written Assignment #4 Due
	29	•Separation of hands exercises. •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24]
July	3	•Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24]
	5	•Continue work from previous weeks and review of all excerpts, materials, and concepts. •Written Assignment #5 Due
	6	•Continue work from previous weeks and review of all excerpts, materials, and concepts. •Review for Written Exam #3 and Final Conducting Exam
	7	•Written Exam #3 and Final Conducting Exam