



**FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING**  
**MUAG 3800.001; 5805.001**  
**MAYMESTER, 2018**

**Instructor** Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies

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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:**

M T W Th; 2:00pm – 5:00pm; Murchison Performing Arts Center Room 132 (IRR)

**Final Written Exam:**

Thursday, May 31, 2018; 2:00pm – 5:00pm

**Grading: Conducting Work in Class (cumulative) 40%; Terms Quizzes (cumulative) 10%;  
Exams (other than final, cumulative) 20%; Final Written Exam 10%; Final Conducting Exam 10%;  
Written Assignments 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 reduction of 1 letter grade
- 2 reduction of 2 letter grades
- 3 reduction of 3 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 – 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.

### Written Exams

Tests include questions pertaining to class discussions.

### Final Conducting Exam

Exam includes excerpts conducted throughout the session.

### Final Written Exam

Tests include questions pertaining to class discussions and previous written exams.

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

May	14	•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
	15	•Terms Quiz #1 •Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	16	•Terms Quiz #2 •Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5] •Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	17	•Written Assignment #1 Due •Time beating in 1; more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7] •Written Exam #1 -- Basic conducting concepts; 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]
	21	•Terms Quiz #3 •Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13] •Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	22	•Written Assignment #2 Due •Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17] •Baton grip and use. •Separation of hands exercises.
	23	•Terms Quiz #4 •Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	24	•Written Exam #2 – Concepts re expressive gestures, cueing, and separation of hands, transpositions, plus all material from Exam #1. •Written Assignment #3 Due •More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23]
	29	•Terms Quiz #5 •Written Assignment #3 Due •More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation), baton grip and use. [excerpts 21, 22, & 23] •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24]
	30	•Terms Quiz #6 •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24] •Review for Final Written Exam and Final Conducting Exam
	31	Final Conducting Exam & Final Written Exam

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

LINK: <http://facultysuccess.unt.edu/academic-integrity>

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

**ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT**

LINK: <eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

**ODA STATEMENT**

LINK: <disability.unt.edu>. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

**2017-2018 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)**

Link: <http://catalog.unt.edu/content.php?catoid=17&navoid=1737>

**Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2017-2018**

Link: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2017-18/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/>

**RESPONDING TO STUDENTS IN DISTRESS: UNT CARE TEAM**

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>