



**FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING
MUAG 3800, SECTION 001
SUMMER I, 2021**

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.

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; 2:00pm – 4:20pm; Murchison Performing Arts Center - IRR

Grading: Conducting Assignments (cumulative) 40%; Terms Quizzes (cumulative) 20%;

Written Exams (cumulative) 20%; Final Written Exam 10%; 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

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

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.

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.

Final Written Exam

Test includes questions pertaining to class discussions and the Fundamentals of Conducting workbook.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

June	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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.
	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off’s. [excerpts 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, & 4.5]
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #1 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •Time beating in 1, more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7]
	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review Clefs and Transpositions •Separation of hands exercises. •Written Exam #1 -- Basic conducting concepts; review transpositions; terms, all concepts discussed to this point. – due in Canvas by 10:00pm
	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #2 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting using passive vs active gestures; cues. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #3 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •Fermatas [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue work of all previous excerpts, materials, and concepts. •Review Clefs and Transpositions •Separation of hands exercises. •Score study discussion. •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
	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #4 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •baton grip and use. •Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5]
	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #5 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation) [excerpts 21, 22, & 23]
	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review Clefs and Transpositions •Separation of hands exercises. •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]
July	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Terms Quiz #6 due in Canvas by 10:00pm •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]
	29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpts 24, 25, 26, 27]
	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Continue work from previous weeks and review of all excerpts, materials, and concepts. •Review for Written Exam #3 and Final Conducting Exam
	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Final Written Exam
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Final Conducting Exam due in Canvas by 10:00pm on July 2

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