



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002/5850.003
FALL, 2019

Instructor:

Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies
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Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137
940-565-3732 (office)

Office Hours:

by appointment

Textbook:

No textbook. Certain score copies may be provided by instructor; you are welcome to purchase your own scores – consult instructor for advice on editions. Most public domain scores may be downloaded online at: http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page

Materials:

- Baton
- 3-ring binder
- Your Instrument

Course Description:

This course is designed for the development of a professional conducting approach and will include instruction on orchestral 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.

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 repertoire.
4. Knowledge of orchestral instruments and mainstream audition excerpts.
5. Rehearsal technique.

Methods for Assessing the Expected Outcomes:

1. Instructor's assessment of improvement in physical technique of conducting.
2. Instructor's assessment of improvement in accompanying and other related techniques.
3. Instructor's assessment of the student's score study.
4. Instructor's assessment of improvement and knowledge of orchestral instruments and other related issues.

Course Requirements:

Conducting:

Students will receive a grade each time they conduct from the podium. The major portion of the grade will pertain to how well the student knows the score. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpt 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.

Attendance and Class Participation:

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 change |
| 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

Written and Reading Assignments:

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Anatomy of the Orchestra by Norman Del Mar

SECTION I: THE STRINGS – Chapters 1-10; QUIZ #1

SECTION I: THE STRINGS – Chapters 11-16; QUIZ #2

SECTION I: THE STRINGS – Chapters 17-24; QUIZ #3

SECTION II: THE WOODWIND – Chapters 1-3; QUIZ #4

SECTION II: THE WOODWIND – Chapters 4-7; QUIZ #5

SECTION II: THE WOODWIND – Chapters 8-12; QUIZ #6

SECTION III: HORNS – Chapters 1-8; QUIZ #7

SECTION III: HORNS – Chapters 9-12; QUIZ #8

SECTION IV: THE HEAVY BRASS – Chapters 1-5; QUIZ #9

SECTION IV: THE HEAVY BRASS – Chapters 6-11; QUIZ #10

SECTION V: TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION – Part I: Timpani – Chapters 1-10; QUIZ #11

SECTION V: TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION – Part II: Percussion – Chapters 1-5[Glockenspiel]; QUIZ #12

SECTION V: TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION – Part II: Percussion – Ch. 5[Xylophone-Flexatone]; QUIZ

#13

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Rehearsal Observations

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations, each reflecting forty-five minutes spent in a university or professional (conducted) orchestra rehearsal. 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.

For each rehearsal observation, isolate one rehearsal technique used by the conductor and give the following information: (1) Description of the technique used; (2) Problem the technique was intended to solve or improve; (3) Name of work being rehearsed and location within the piece where the technique was used; (4) Your observation of the success of using the particular technique.

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?

Grading:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Attendance; In-Class Conducting Experience | 40% |
| Reading Assignments | 20% |
| Written Assignments | 20% |
| Final Conducting Exam | 20% |

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_0.pdf

2019-2020 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

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

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2019-2020

LINK: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2019-20/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>

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**WEEK 1 [8/26]**

Course and syllabus overview; anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; conducting

areas/planes. 5 basic conducting patterns; discussion of the “four hinges”; basics of transpositions.
Exercises for Practice.

Score Study Discussion – Weber: Overture to *Der Freischütz*

Reading Quiz #1 due Friday

WEEK 2 [9/2]

Conducting Assignment – Weber: Overture to *Der Freischütz*

Reading Quiz #2 due Friday

WEEK 3 [9/9]

Conducting Assignment - Weber: Overture to *Der Freischütz*

Reading Quiz #3 due Friday

WEEK 4 [9/16]

Conducting Assignment - Weber: Overture to *Der Freischütz*

Reading Quiz #4 due Friday

WEEK 5 [9/23]

Score Study Discussion – Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 (1st mvt)

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 (1st mvt)

Reading Quiz #5 due Friday

WEEK 6 [9/30]

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 (1st mvt)

Reading Quiz #6 due Friday

Rehearsal Observation #1 due Friday.

WEEK 7 [10/7]

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 (1st mvt)

Reading Quiz #7 due Friday

WEEK 8 [10/14]

Score Study Discussion – TBA

Reading Quiz #8 due Friday

WEEK 9 [10/21]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Quiz #9 due Wednesday

[No Class on Fri 10/25]

WEEK 10 [10/28]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Quiz #10 due Wednesday

[No Class on Fri 11/1]

WEEK 11 [11/4]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Quiz #11 due Friday

Rehearsal Observation #2 due Friday.

WEEK 12 [11/11]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Continue to prepare for final exam.

Reading Quiz #12 due Friday

[No Class on Wed 11/13]

WEEK 13 [11/18]

Continue to prepare for final exam.

Reading Quiz #13 due Friday

WEEK 14 [11/25]

Final Conducting Exam