



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002/5850.003
FALL, 2022

Instructor:

Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies
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Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137

Office Hours:

by appointment

Textbook:

Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Most public domain scores may be downloaded online at: http://imslp.org/wiki/Main_Page
you are welcome to purchase your own scores – consult instructor for advice on editions.

The Conductor's Craft [GIA Publications]

www.giamusic.com/store/resource/the-conductors-craft-print-g10601

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 ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

REHEARSAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations, each reflecting thirty minutes spent in a university or professional orchestra. The student must be an observer and not a member of the ensemble.

All reports must be completed and submitted into Canvas by the deadlines listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The length must be a minimum of 700 words. Failure to complete the minimum word requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade for the observation by one letter grade. Correct spelling and the use of the English language is expected.

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.

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 from the following links:

Concert Observation #1:

Eugene Ormandy, conductor

Beethoven – Symphony No. 8 in F Major, Op. 93

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHV0wDCDrzc

Concert Observation #2:

Pierre Monteux, conductor

Dukas – The Sorcerer's Apprentice

www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8bfRWtBe9E

All reports must be completed and submitted into Canvas by the deadlines listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The length must be a minimum of 700 words. Failure to complete the minimum word requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade for the observation by one letter grade. 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.

Grading:

Attendance; In-Class Conducting Experience	40%
Reading Assignments	20%
Rehearsal Observations and Concert Observations	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://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

Health and Safety Information

LINK: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

LINK: <https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

Academic Calendar, FALL 2022

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

Final Exam Schedule

LINK: <https://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

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed “Request to Drop” form to the Registrar’s Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall 2022 is November 18. Information about add/drop may be found at: See Academic Calendar (listed above)

STUDENT RESOURCES

LINK: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

LINK: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK 1 [8/29]

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 – Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Reading Quiz #1 due Friday

WEEK 2 [9/5]

Conducting Assignment – Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Reading Quiz #2 due Friday

WEEK 3 [9/12]

Conducting Assignment – Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Reading Quiz #3 due Friday

Concert Observation #1 due Friday.

WEEK 4 [9/19]

Conducting Assignment – Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21

Reading Quiz #4 due Friday

WEEK 5 [9/26]

Conducting Assignment – Excerpts from *The Conductor's Craft*

Reading Quiz #5 due Friday

WEEK 6 [10/3]

Conducting Assignment – Excerpts from *The Conductor's Craft*

Reading Quiz #6 due Friday

Rehearsal Observation #1 due Friday.

[No Class on Wed 10/5]

WEEK 7 [10/10]

Conducting Assignment – Excerpts from *The Conductor's Craft*

Reading Quiz #7 due Friday

WEEK 8 [10/17]

Conducting Assignment – Excerpts from *The Conductor's Craft*

Score Study Discussion – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Reading Quiz #8 due Friday

WEEK 9 [10/24]

Conducting Assignment – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Reading Quiz #9 due Wednesday

Concert Observation #2 due Friday.

[No Class on Fri 10/25]

WEEK 10 [10/31]

Conducting Assignment – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Reading Quiz #10 due Wednesday

WEEK 11 [11/7]

Conducting Assignment – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Reading Quiz #11 due Friday

WEEK 12 [11/14]

Conducting Assignment – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Continue to prepare for final exam.

Reading Quiz #12 due Friday

Rehearsal Observation #2 due Friday.

WEEK 13 [11/21]

Conducting Assignment – Brahms: Symphony No. 2 in D Major, Op. 73

Reading Quiz #13 due Friday

[No Class on Wed 11/23 and Fri 11/25 for Thanksgiving]

WEEK 14 [11/25]

Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra on Fri 12/2