



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002
SPRING, 2016

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:

Students must acquire a 3-ring binder for scores as well as accumulated written and reading assignments. Written assignments are to be turned in on white 8½ x 11 paper, typewritten, with three-hole punches for binder.

READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Conducting Bibliography

Select two books 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.

Conducting Treatises and Textbooks – [Reading Assignment #1: **Friday, February 5**]

Orchestral History and Practice – [Reading Assignment #2: **Friday, March 4**]

Repertoire Guides (orchestra) – [Reading Assignment #3: **Friday, March 25**]

Conductors and the History of Conducting – [Reading Assignment #4: **Friday, April 15**]

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

Student's Name

Reading Assignment #

Due Date

Description of Assignment.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

Rehearsal Observations

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations, each reflecting forty-five minutes spent in a UNT Symphony 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.

For full credit, the assignment must be turned in during class on the following due dates:

1st Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, February 19**

2nd Rehearsal Observation – **Friday, April 8**

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 | 45% |
| Reading Assignments | 15% |
| Written Assignments | 15% |
| Final Conducting Exam (April 25) | 25% |

Electronic Devices in the Classroom

The use of activated cellular telephones or audible pagers is not allowed in the class at any time. Please be sure they are deactivated before the class begins.

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.

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. Please visit <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap> for more information about financial aid Satisfactory Academic Progress. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course being doing so.

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The short SPOT survey will be made available **April 18th – May 1st** to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. For the spring 2016 semester you will receive an email on **April 18th (12:01 a.m.)** from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Please look for the email in your UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete your survey. Once you complete the survey you will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the spot website at www.spot.unt.edu or email spot@unt.edu.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

| | | |
|----------|----|---|
| January | 20 | Introduction; Review Syllabus |
| | 22 | Exercises; In-Class Conducting Assignment [discussion] |
| | 25 | Exercises; In-Class Conducting Assignment [discussion]; Reading Quiz #1 Due |
| | 27 | Exercises; In-Class Conducting Assignment [discussion] |
| | 29 | No Class |
| February | 1 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 3 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 5 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #1 Due |
| | 8 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 10 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 12 | No Class |
| | 15 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 17 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 19 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; 1 st Rehearsal Observation Due |
| | 22 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 24 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 26 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| March | 29 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 2 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 4 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #2 Due |
| | 7 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 9 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 11 | No Class |
| | 21 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 23 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 25 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #3 Due |
| | 28 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 30 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| April | 1 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 4 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 6 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 8 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; 2 nd Rehearsal Observation Due |
| | 11 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 13 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 15 | In-Class Conducting Assignment; Reading Assignment #4 Due |
| | 18 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 20 | In-Class Conducting Assignment |
| | 22 | Final Conducting Exam [10:00am-10:50am]; Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra [12:15pm-2:05pm] |
| May | 25 | One-On-One Meeting: Review of Final Conducting Exam |
| | 27 | One-On-One Meeting: Review of Final Conducting Exam |
| | 2 | One-On-One Meeting: Review of Final Conducting Exam |