



**ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING**  
**MUAG 3870.002**  
**SPRING, 2018**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies  
clay.couturiaux@unt.edu  
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](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:**

***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 three 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	15%
Written Assignments	15%
Midterm Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra ( <b>Wednesday, March 7; 12:15-2:05pm</b> )	15%
Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra ( <b>Wednesday, April 25; 12:15-2:05pm</b> )	15%

**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/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**ODA STATEMENT**

Link: [disability.unt.edu](http://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>

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**WEEK 1 [1/16]**

Course and syllabus overview; anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; 5 basic conducting patterns; discussion of the "four hinges"; basics of transpositions; Exercises for Practice.

**WEEK 2** [1/22]

Reading Quiz #1 [Monday]

Exercises for Practice.

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 31 in D Major, K. 297 “Paris”

**WEEK 3** [1/29]

Reading Quiz #2 [Monday]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 31 in D Major, K. 297 “Paris”

**WEEK 4** [2/5]

Reading Quiz #3 [Monday]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 31 in D Major, K. 297 “Paris”

Rehearsal Observation #1 due Wed, Feb 7.

Note: Fri, 2/9 is Day Off.

**WEEK 5** [2/12]

Reading Quiz #4 [Monday]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 31 in D Major, K. 297 “Paris”

Conducting Assignment – Stravinsky: Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra

Note: Fri, 2/16 is Day Off.

**WEEK 6** [2/19]

Reading Quiz #5 [Monday]

Conducting Assignment – Stravinsky: Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra

**WEEK 7** [2/26]

Reading Quiz #6 [Monday]

Conducting Assignment – Stravinsky: Suite No. 2 for Small Orchestra

Rehearsal Observation #2 due Fri, March 2.

**WEEK 8** [3/5]

Reading Quiz #7 [Monday]

Rehearsal with UNT Concert Orchestra [Mon, March 5]

Midterm Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra [Wed, March 7]

**WEEK 9** [3/19]

Reading Quiz #8 [Monday]

Final Assignment. Prepare for final exam.

**WEEK 10** [3/26]

Reading Quiz #9 [Monday]

Final Assignment. Prepare for final exam.

**WEEK 11** [4/2]

Reading Quiz #10 [Monday]

Final Assignment. Prepare for final exam.

Rehearsal Observation #3 due Fri, April 6.

**WEEK 12** [4/9]

Reading Quiz #11 [Monday]

Final Assignment. Prepare for final exam.

**WEEK 13** [4/16]

Reading Quiz #12 [Monday]

Final Assignment. Prepare for final exam.

**WEEK 14** [4/23]

Reading Quiz #13 [Monday]

Final Conducting Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra [Wed, April 25]

Note: Fri, 4/27 is Day Off

**WEEK 15** [4/30]

Review One-On-One Meeting: Final Conducting Exam