



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002/5850.003
FALL, 2020

Instructor:

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

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:

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

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/symptomtesting/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

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.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

Conducting Bibliography

Select one book from each of the following sections of the Conducting Bibliography attached to this syllabus. For each book, provide a summary and submit into Canvas by the deadlines listed below in the Schedule of Classes. The length must be a minimum of 750 words. Failure to complete the minimum word requirement will result in the reduction of the final grade for the assignment by one letter grade. Correct spelling and the use of the English language is expected.

Conducting Treatises and Textbooks – [Reading Assignment #1]

Orchestral History and Practice – [Reading Assignment #2]

Conductors and the History of Conducting – [Reading Assignment #3]

REHEARSAL OBSERVATIONS

Each student is required to submit three rehearsal observations from the following links:

Rehearsal Observation #1:

Carlos Kleiber, conductor

Strauss Jr. – Overture to *Die Fledermaus*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nvk2Glu-7kM>

Rehearsal Observation #2:
Sir Georg Solti, conductor
Wagner - Overture to *Tannhäuser*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2L85eTSWrng>

Rehearsal Observation #3:
Bruno Walter, conductor
Brahms – Symphony No. 2
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsnMiayZDQg>

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. Musicianship
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%
Rehearsal 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://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

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

WEEK 1 [8/24]

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 – Mozart

WEEK 2 [8/31]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart

Rehearsal Observation #1 due Friday

WEEK 3 [9/7]

Conducting Assignment - Mozart

WEEK 4 [9/14]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart

Reading Assignment #1 due Friday

WEEK 5 [9/21]

Score Study Discussion – Schubert

Conducting Assignment – Schubert

WEEK 6 [9/28]

Conducting Assignment – Schubert

Rehearsal Observation #2 due Friday

WEEK 7 [10/5]

Conducting Assignment – Schubert

WEEK 8 [10/12]

Score Study Discussion – TBA

Reading Assignment #2 due Friday

WEEK 9 [10/19]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

WEEK 10 [10/26]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Rehearsal Observation #3 due Friday

WEEK 11 [11/2]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

WEEK 12 [11/9]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Continue to prepare for final exam.

Reading Assignment #3 due Friday

WEEK 13 [11/16]

Conducting Final Exam