



ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING
MUAG 3870.002/5850.003
SPRING, 2021

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

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

SECTION VI: KEYBOARD AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS; QUIZ #14

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%
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://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 [1/11]

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.

Score Study Discussion – Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Reading Assignment Quiz #1 due Friday

WEEK 2 [1/18]

Conducting Assignment – Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Reading Assignment Quiz #2 due Friday

WEEK 3 [1/25]

Conducting Assignment – Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Reading Assignment Quiz #3 due Friday

WEEK 4 [2/1]

Conducting Assignment – Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Concert Observation #1 due Friday

Reading Assignment Quiz #4 due Friday

WEEK 5 [2/8]

Conducting Assignment – Dvořák: Symphony No. 8 in G Major, Op. 88

Reading Assignment Quiz #5 due Friday

WEEK 6 [2/15]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #6 due Friday

WEEK 7 [2/22]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #7 due Friday

WEEK 8 [3/1]

Score Study Discussion – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #8 due Friday

WEEK 9 [3/8]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #9 due Friday

WEEK 10 [3/15]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Concert Observation #2 due Friday

Reading Assignment Quiz #10 due Friday

WEEK 11 [3/22]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #11 due Friday

WEEK 12 [3/29]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Reading Assignment Quiz #12 due Friday

WEEK 13 [4/5]

Conducting Assignment – TBA

Continue to prepare for final exam.

Reading Assignment Quiz #13 due Friday

WEEK 14 [4/12]

Conducting Final Exam