



**ORCHESTRAL CONDUCTING**  
**MUAG 3870.002/5850.003**  
**SPRING, 2023**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Clay Couturiaux, Assistant Director of Orchestral Studies  
clay.couturiaux@unt.edu  
Murchison Performing Arts Center, Room 137

**Office Hours:**

by appointment

**Textbook:**

Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550  
Mendelssohn: Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 61  
Debussy: *Nocturnes*

**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

### 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

*The Cambridge Companion to Conducting*, edited by José Antonio Bowen. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

- The Rise of Conducting – [Reading Quiz #1]
- The Central European Tradition – [Reading Quiz #2]
- The French Tradition – [Reading Quiz #3]
- The Italian Tradition – [Reading Quiz #4]
- The American Tradition – [Reading Quiz #5]
- The English Tradition – [Reading Quiz #6]
- The Russian Tradition – [Reading Quiz #7]

### 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.

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	50%
Reading Assignments	15%
Rehearsal Observations	15%
Final Conducting Exam	20%

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

LINK: [https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final\\_.pdf](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/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

**ODA STATEMENT**

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://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, SPRING 2023**

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

**Final Exam Schedule, SPRING 2023**

LINK: <https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring>

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 [1/18]

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 – Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

### WEEK 2 [1/23]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Reading Quiz #1 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 3 [1/30]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

### WEEK 4 [2/6]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Reading Quiz #2 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 5 [2/13]

Conducting Assignment – Mozart: Symphony No. 40 in G minor, K. 550

Rehearsal Observation #1 due Friday at the beginning of class

### WEEK 6 [2/20]

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 61

Reading Quiz #3 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 7 [2/27]

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 61

### WEEK 8 [3/6]

Conducting Assignment – Mendelssohn: Overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Op. 61

Reading Quiz #4 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 9 [3/20]

Conducting Assignment – Debussy: *Nocturnes*

### WEEK 10 [3/27]

Conducting Assignment – Debussy: *Nocturnes*

Reading Quiz #5 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 11 [4/3]

Conducting Assignment – Debussy: *Nocturnes*

Rehearsal Observation #2 due Friday at the beginning of class

### WEEK 12 [4/10]

Conducting Assignment – Debussy: *Nocturnes*

Reading Quiz #6 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 13 [4/17]

Conducting Assignment – Debussy: *Nocturnes*

Conducting Final Exam with UNT Concert Orchestra (Fri, April 21, 12:15pm-2:05pm)

### WEEK 14 [4/24]

Review One-On-One Meeting: Final Conducting Exam

Reading Quiz #7 due on Friday in Canvas by 10:00pm

### WEEK 15 [5/1]

No Class [room 232 needed for juries]