

**MUAG 3870.003**  
**INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING**  
**Fall Semester 2023**  
**Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00-8:50 am**  
**MPAC 132 (IRR)**

**Instructor:** Dachuan Cao

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**Office hours:** By appointment

**Course Description and Purpose**

To continue to develop the knowledge and skills appropriate to professional conducting. The course will include instruction in intermediate conducting techniques, score study, rehearsal preparation and delivery, visual/aural discrimination skills, alternative movement approaches, and a reinforcement of essential musicianship. To summarize: students will study expressive gesture, critical listening, and effective rehearsal techniques.

**Course Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate efficient and expressive body carriage
- Demonstrate effective baton technique
- Demonstrate the following techniques:
  - - Preparatory gestures, downbeats, and releases.
  - - Patterns for various meters, including duple/triple, simple/compound.
  - - Representation of a diversity of styles.
  - - Representation of dynamic indications.
  - - Independent and complimentary use of right and left arms-hand complex.
  - - Entrances on beats other than one and incomplete beats.
  - - Diversity of gestural vocabulary in the service of cues and more.
  - - Representation of a diversity of tempos and transitions.
- Evaluate conducting techniques by:
  - - Observing and evaluating videotaped conducting experiences.
  - - Observing and evaluating class members.
  - - Evaluating two different conductors of various ensembles in rehearsal.
  - - Evaluating two different conductors of various ensembles in concert.
- Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills through rehearsal situations
- Describe the role of the conductor in historical and philosophical perspectives
- Refine the essential skills of musicianship in a conducting context.
- Internalize transpositions and their use in score reading through independent exercises and assignments.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze a score with a focus on interpretation and rehearsal techniques.

## **Required Resources**

For success in the course, each student must have the following materials:

- Baton (subject to instructor approval)
- Course/Score Material Packet (provided)
- Smartphone or Personal Video Recording Device
- Your major or secondary instrument as determined by the instructor

## **Pre-Requisites**

MUAG 3800 or transfer equivalent, as determined by the conducting faculty. MUTH 1380/1480/1390/1490/2380/2480/2390/2490.

Successful completion of the qualifying entrance examination for MUAG 3870.

## **Concurrent Enrollment**

MULB 1806, MULB 1807, MULB 1813 or MULB 5173.500, .501, or .502

## **Course Requirements**

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is expected for all scheduled classes. The nature of a conducting course requires active participation and interaction among all class members at all times. Absence from class on a pre- assigned conducting day will result in the student being passed over for that conducting sequence, with a grade of 0 or no credit. Excused absences will be handled on a case-by-case basis and are best communicated in advance.

Absences will result in a lowering of the final grade as follows:

- 1 No effect
- 2-3 reduction of 1 letter grade
- 4-5 reduction of 2 letter grades
- 6+ grade of WF if withdrawal requested or final grade of F

## **Grading Scale**

100–90	A
89–80	B
79–70	C
69–60	D
60 or below	F

**Written Assignments and Tests:** Individual written work pertinent to the lecture material will be assigned as needed. Examples include self-evaluation of conducting experiences, as well as rehearsal observations of professional conductors, as outlined below:

Rehearsal Observations: Each student is required to submit two completed rehearsal observations, each reflecting thirty minutes spent in a MAJOR university or professional (conducted) ensemble rehearsal. All reports must be typed: double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, and all margins 1 inch. The length of the typed assignments must be a minimum of one page, and a maximum of two pages with the above guidelines followed. For

full credit, this assignment must be turned in at the beginning of class on the given due date. Please see the section on Rehearsal Observations for more details of content and due dates.

**Score Study and Analysis Projects:** Students will be introduced to the score study and analysis process, with a culminating project that demonstrates comprehensions and application. More details to follow.

**Weekly Conducting Assignments:** Weekly conducting exercises and excerpts will be assigned and evaluated. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpts in class with the class members as the ensemble. The student must provide a method to record their conducting turn.

The following scores will serve as the core curriculum of the course; for each conducting round, students will be assigned a particular piece (or movement as appropriate) and then assignments will rotate each round. Special care will be made to focus on particular areas of growth as well as diversity of repertoire for each conductor.

First Suite in E-flat by Gustav Holst  
Lincolnshire Posy by Percy Grainger

**Final Conducting Examination:** The final week of class (4/12, 6/12 2023) will be used for the final conducting projects.

### **Grading Procedures**

The final grade is based on the following criteria.

Evaluation	Percentage
Conducting Experiences	60%
Written Assignments	25%
Final Conducting Exam	15%

See the above section on Attendance for details about how absences will affect the final grade.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940- 565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus.

## **RESOURCE LINKS**

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

### STUDENT BEHAVIOR

<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

### ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](http://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. <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/>

### ODA 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 Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access. <http://disability.unt.edu> Phone: (940) 565-4323

### UNT POLICY STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY

<https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion>

### HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

<https://registrar.unt.edu/students>

### ACADEMIC CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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

### FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

See above

### FINANCIAL AID AND SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

<http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

### RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

<http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

### COUNSELING AND TESTING

<http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>

For more information on mental health issues, please visit: <https://speakout.unt.edu>.

The counselor for music students is: Myriam Reynolds, Chestnut Hall Suite 311, (940) 565-2741, [Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu](mailto:Myriam.Reynolds@unt.edu). Please visit the CARE Team website to tips to recognize students in distress and what you need to do in cases of extreme behavior or references to suicide. <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care>

### ADD/DROP POLICY

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

### STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

<https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

### CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>