



**MUAG 3870.003**  
**INSTRUMENTAL**  
**CONDUCTING**  
**Fall Semester 2024**

**Monday/Wednesday/Friday 8:00-8:50am**  
**MPAC 132 (Instrumental Rehearsal Room)**

**Instructor:** Dachuan Cao

**Office:** Murchison Performing Arts Center Annex (Wind Studies Office)

**E-mail:** DachuanCao@my.unt.edu

**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 gestures, 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:

- 1-2 No effect
- 3-4 reduction of 1 letter grade
- 5-6 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 projects will serve as the core curriculum of the course; for each conducting round, students will be assigned a particular piece or movement or excerpt 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.

1. Conductors Collegium Exercise Book
2. Transposition Project
3. Gustav Holst, First Suite in Eb
4. Wolfgang Mozart, Serenade in Eb Major, K.375
5. Project TBD.

**Final Conducting Examination:** The final week of class (Dec 2, Dec 4 2024) will be used for the final conducting projects.

### **Grading Procedures**

The final grade is based on the following criteria.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
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.

### **RESOURCE LINKS**

#### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

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

#### **STUDENT BEHAVIOR**

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <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](https://my.unt.edu). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](https://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. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](https://disability.unt.edu). (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

## **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**

See: [Registration Information](#)

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

## **Academic Calendar, Fall 2024**

See: [Fall 2024 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/sites/default/files/fall-2024-academic-calendar.pdf>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Fall 2024**

See above

## **Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress**

See: [Financial Aid](#)

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

## **RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

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

## **COUNSELING AND TESTING**

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need.

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

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

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

## **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. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

See: [Student Resources](#)

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

## **CARE TEAM**

See: [Care Team](#)

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