



## **FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING**

**MUAG 3800-001**

**Summer 5W1, 2023**

**[DRAFT OF 5/13/23]**

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### **Course Content:**

The Fundamentals of Conducting course is designed for the development of a professional conducting approach. The course will cover beginning and intermediate conducting techniques, score analysis and preparation, development of visual and aural skills, and transposition skills.

### **Required materials:**

- (1) Fundamentals of Conducting workbook (Summer version). [Provided by instructor.]
- (2) Baton (shortest and lightest available).
- (3) Primary instrument [and secondary instrument as instructed].
- (4) Smart phone w video capability and appropriate storage space.

### **Course Purpose:**

This course partially fulfills requirements undergraduate degrees for music majors.

### **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 transpositions.
4. Aural skills.

### **Course Requirements:**

1. Attendance at all class sessions. This is a condensed course with only 15 days of class. Therefore students are not to miss class for any reason other than severe illness or genuine emergency. If class must be missed for one of these reasons, the student should speak with the instructor about overcoming any deficiencies at the earliest possible time.
2. *Thorough* preparation for class. This includes studying material already presented, preparation of scores for conducting assignments (including preparation of your instrumental part as an ensemble member), readings as assigned, etc.

### **Course Times and Locations:**

May 22-25, May 30-June 1, June 5-8, June 12-15, & June 19-22, 2:00-4:50pm. Final exam June 22.  
All classes IRR through June 8. June 12-22 classes in Lyric theatre.

### **Attendance and Grading Policy:**

Due to the compressed and intense nature of a course, NO ABSENCES ARE ALLOWED except for serious illness or emergency.

### **Final grade computation:**

Daily conducting grades = 50% Exams 1 & 2 = 20% Final exam = 20% Instrumental preparation = 10%

## Schedule of classes, repertoire, and assignments:

May 22	Course and syllabus overview; Baton grip; anatomy of the beat; basic concepts of use of gravity, acceleration/deceleration; conducting areas/planes; 5 basic conducting patterns; score study basics; basics of transpositions.
May 23	Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off's. [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4] Transpositions.
May 24	Time beating in 2, 3, & 4; preparatory gestures and cut-off's. [excerpts 1, 2, 3, & 4] Basics of the pattern in 1.
May 25	Time beating in 1, more sophisticated preparatory gestures; passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 5, 6, & 7] More on transposition & clefs. Basics of divided patterns.
May 30	Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting use of passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13] Separation of hands exercises.
May 31	Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting use of passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13]
June 1	Conducting in divided patterns; more sophisticated conducting use of passive vs active gestures. [excerpts 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13] Basics of fermate & separation of hands exercises.
June 5	Exam #1 -- Basic conducting concepts; transpositions & clefs; terms, all concepts discussed to this point. Fermate. [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17]
June 6	Fermate. [excerpts 14, 15, 16, & 17] Basics of irregular time signatures.
June 7	Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5] Separation of hands exercises.
June 8	Irregular time signatures. [excerpts 18, 19, 20, & 20.5] More sophisticated gestures (legato/tenuto/sostenuto, staccato, breathing/cueing gesture, etc.) Score study discussion.
June 12	More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation) [excerpts 8, 21, 22, & 23]
June 13	Exam #2 – Concepts re expressive gestures, cueing, and separation of hands, plus all material from Exam #1. More sophisticated style gestures (staccato/legato/sostenuto/gesture of syncopation) excerpts 8, 21, 22, & 23] Basics of tempo change and cueing (RH & LH).
June 14	Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24] Separation of hands exercises.
June 15	Tempo changes, changes of texture, and cueing. [excerpt 24 – review of other excerpts TBD] Separation of hands exercises. Recitative basics.
June 19	Recitative. [excerpt 25] Continued work on all excerpts, separation of hands exercises, and all other course material.
June 20	Continued work on all excerpts, separation of hands exercises, and all other course material.
June 21	Continued work on all excerpts, separation of hands exercises, and all other course material.
June 22	Final exam.

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

## ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct](http://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 and how to forward your e-mail: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/)

## ADA 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 Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at [disability.unt.edu](http://disability.unt.edu). You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.