

## **Fundamentals of Conducting**

**MUAG 3800**

Spring 2025

T/Th 8:00-9:20AM, MU 230

**Instructor:** Dr. Dong Hyun Kang

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**Office:** MU 217

**Office Hours:** By appointment

### **Course Content and Purpose:**

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. Brock McElheran, *Conducting Technique: For Beginners and Professionals*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.
2. Musical Scores/Excerpts
3. Baton
4. Primary instrument
5. Video recording device

### **Supplemental Resources:**

1. Harold A. Decker & Julius Herford, *Choral Conducting: A Symposium*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
2. Gustav Meier, *The Score, the Orchestra, and the Conductor*
3. Elizabeth Green & Mark Gibson, *The Modern Conductor*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed.
4. Ramona M. Wis, *The Conductor as Leader*

### **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. Aural skills
4. Transpositions

### **Course Requirements and Expectations:**

This is a *skills-based course*, so regular attendance is essential (See specifics regarding class attendance below). Regular and thorough preparation for class is also required; this means *thorough* preparation of class conducting materials *before* each class session as well as practice of individual parts *before* each class session.

### **Attendance:**

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 affect
- 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 tardiness will be counted as ½ an absence.

### **Participation:**

Participation will be graded, which includes but is not limited to class discussion, performance (singing/playing) for colleagues as the class ensemble, and reviewing/answering questions on important concepts discussed in the course.

### **Assignments:**

#### **Conducting Assignments:**

Conducting assignments will be given and graded. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical pieces/excerpts 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. **Written self-evaluations of conducting videos** will be due after each conducting assignment.

#### **Score Study Assignments:**

Thorough score study is required for conducting assignments, and each of the marked scores will be graded on the same day scheduled for conducting.

#### **Rehearsal Observations:**

Each student is required to submit two rehearsal observations (choral and orchestral), each reflecting one hour spent in a university or professional ensemble rehearsal. The student must be an observer and not a member of the ensemble.

The provided Rehearsal Observation Guide lists the requisite areas for you to address during your observation. After your observation, transform your notes into complete sentences of scholarly writing (correct spelling and appropriate use of the English language is required). All reports must be typed: double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins. The length must be a minimum of two pages. Failure to complete these requirements will result in the reduction of the final grade by one letter grade. For full credit, the assignments must be submitted by the dates and times listed in the course calendar.

### **Conducting Exams:**

- Midterm
- Final

### **Grading:**

Attendance & Participation	10%
Conducting Assignments	40%
Score Study Assignments	20%

Rehearsal Observations	10%
Midterm Conducting Exam	10%
Final Conducting Exam	10%

### Course Schedules

<b>Introduction</b>	1/14	Course & Syllabus Overview Role of Conductor & Leadership Understanding of Conducting Posture <sup>1</sup> Four Hinges Conducting Planes & Spaces Anatomy of Conducting Beat Basic Beat Patterns (1, 2, 3, 4) <u>Conducting Exercise #1</u> <u>Conducting Excerpt #1</u>
	1/16	Conducting: Choral & Orchestral Use of Hands & Baton Active & Passive Gestures Preparatory & Release Gestures Score Study & Sound Ideal Discuss Conducting Assignment #1 <u>Conducting Exercise #2</u> <u>Conducting Excerpt #2</u>
	1/21	<b><i>Choral Work 1 (Unaccompanied)</i></b> Concept of Choral Conducting Choral Seating Arrangements Use of Hands Review Rhythms Various Types of Expressive Gestures <u>Conducting Exercise #3</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #1-1</u>
<b><u>Chapter I:</u></b> <b><i>Choral</i></b> <b><i>Repertoire</i></b>	1/23	Dynamics & Dynamic Changes Discuss Rehearsal Observations <u>Conducting Exercise #4</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #1-1</u>
	1/28	Tempo Changes Articulations <u>Conducting Exercise #5</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #1-2</u>

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<sup>1</sup> All the concepts discussed in the classes are accumulative and should be continuously reviewed and/or practiced throughout the semester for the improvement of your conducting.

- 1/30 Independence of Hands  
Textural Changes (Homophony & Polyphony)  
Cueing  
Discuss Conducting Assignment #2  
Conducting Exercise #6  
Conducting Assignment #1-2
- 2/4 ***Choral Work 2 (Accompanied)***  
Concept of Working with a Collaborative Pianist (Do/Don't)  
Meter Changes  
Fermatas  
Conducting Exercise #7  
Conducting Assignment #2-1
- 2/6 Fermatas Review  
Subdivision & Melding of Beat Patterns  
Conducting Exercise #8  
Conducting Assignment #2-1
- 2/11 Phrasing  
Score Reading I (Reading C Clefs)  
Conducting Exercise #9  
Conducting Assignment #2-2
- 2/13 No Class (TMEA Conference)  
**Due:** Rehearsal Observation #1 (Choral)
- 2/18 Phrasing Review  
Score Reading I (Reading C Clefs) Review  
Compound Meters (6, 9, 12)  
Discuss Conducting Assignment #3  
Conducting Exercise #10  
Conducting Assignment #2-2
- Chapter II:** 2/20 ***Orchestral/Instrumental Work 1 (Chamber)***  
***Orchestral/*** Concept of Orchestral/Instrumental Conducting  
***Instrumental*** Orchestral/Instrumental Seating Arrangements  
***Repertoire*** Use of Baton Review  
Articulations Review  
Score Reading II (Transposition)  
Conducting Exercise #11  
Conducting Assignment #3-1
- 2/25 Score Reading II (Transposition) Review  
Irregular/Asymmetrical Meters (5, 7)  
Conducting Exercise #12  
Conducting Assignment #3-1

2/27	Score Reading I & II Review <u>Conducting Exercise #13</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #3-2</u>
3/4	Score Reading I & II Review Discuss Conducting Assignment #4 <u>Conducting Exercise #14</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #3-2</u>
3/6	<b>Midterm: Conducting Exam</b>
3/11	No Class (Spring Break)
3/13	No Class (Spring Break)
3/18	<b><i>Orchestral/Instrumental Work 2 (Symphony)</i></b> Score Reading I & II Review <u>Conducting Exercise #15</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #4-1</u>
3/20	No Class (ACDA Conference) <b>Due:</b> <u>Rehearsal Observation #2 (Orchestral/Instrumental)</u>
3/25	<u>Conducting Exercise #16</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #4-1</u>
3/27	Concept of Conducting Recitative <u>Conducting Exercise #17</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #4-2</u>
4/1	Concept of Conducting Recitative Review Discuss Conducting Assignment #5 <u>Conducting Exercise #18</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #4-2</u>
<b><u>Chapter III:</u></b> <b><i>Choral-</i></b> <b><i>Orchestral</i></b> <b><i>Repertoire</i></b>	4/3 <b><i>Choral-Orchestral Work (Culminative Study)</i></b> Review of Choral and Orchestral/Instrumental Conducting <u>Conducting Exercise #19</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #5-1</u>
	4/8 <u>Conducting Exercise #20</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #5-1</u>
	4/10 <u>Conducting Exercise #21</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #5-2</u>
	4/15 <u>Conducting Exercise #22</u> <u>Conducting Assignment #5-2</u>

4/17	Final Conducting Exam Review & Practice
4/22	Final Conducting Exam Review & Practice
4/24	No Class
4/29	<b>Final: Conducting Exam</b>
5/1	<b>Final: Conducting Exam</b>
5/3-9	Final Week

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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 (Office of Academic Integrity), 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.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

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

## 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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](#). 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.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: [eagleconnect.unt.edu/](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. 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. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: [disability.unt.edu](http://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, Spring 2025**

See: [Spring 2025 Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-academic-calendar.html>

## **Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2025**

See above

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

### Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

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. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

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/spring-academic-calendar.html>

**STUDENT RESOURCES**

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

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <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.

See: [Care Team](#)

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