



MUAG 3800.004

FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING

Fall 2024 | Mon/Wed/Fri 8:00-8:50 AM | CoM 232

Instructor: **Hannah Weller** | UNT Wind Studies Teaching Fellow | DMA Wind Conducting

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Office hours: By appointment

Course Description and Purpose: To develop the knowledge and skills appropriate to professional conducting. The course will include instruction in fundamental conducting techniques, score study, visual/aural discrimination skills, alternative movement approaches, and a reinforcement of essential musicianship. To summarize: students will study the tenants of expressive gesture, and critical listening.

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 three different conductors of various ensembles in concert.
- Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills in 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)
- 3 Ring Binder for handouts and excerpts (1/2 to 1 inch)
- Smartphone or Personal Video Recording Device
- [Smartphone Tripod](#) (highly recommended)
- Course/Score Material Packet (provided)
- Your major or secondary instrument as determined by the instructor.

Baton Purchasing

You will have the opportunity to purchase a handmade, balanced baton from a trusted company called Custom Batons. You may “test drive” different batons in class, and should you choose to buy it, go to <https://www.custombatons.net/students>, click on the student option, enter school password (tbd) and purchasing information to keep your baton.

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation: Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled classes. The nature of a conducting course always requires active participation and interaction among all class members. 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.

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 and the professor can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

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

LATENESS:

Every four late arrivals (tardy by 5 minutes or more) will count as an absence, and the scale above will take effect.

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 class discussions, and observations of professional concerts as described below:

Concert Observations: Each student is required to submit three completed concert observations, each reflecting attendance at a MAJOR university or professional performance of three different mediums; choral, wind, and orchestral. 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 Concert Observations for more details of content and due dates.

Score Study and Transcription Projects: Students will be introduced to the score study/analysis and transposing/transcribing process, with a culminating project that demonstrates comprehensions and application. Please see the assignments on canvas entitled I. Personal Score Study, II. Transposition Quiz, and III. Transcription and Score Study Project.

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 areas of growth as well as diversity of repertoire for each conductor. Additional scores may be assigned as well.

UNT Conducting Collegium Packet Excerpts
Expanding the Canon Excerpt Books

Conducting Assessments: There will be four conducting assessments over the course of the semester. Each assessment will be on a given selection of excerpts that reinforce a specific conducting technique. The student will select an excerpt of their choosing from a given list and will have approximately five minutes to conduct that excerpt with the class as their ensemble. The student is required to dress professionally and record their examination, which will eventually become a part of their portfolio (final exam). The student will be graded on their posture/ready position, clarity and accuracy of technique, overall preparedness, and their professionalism.

Final Conducting Assessment (#4) & Transcription/Score Study Project: The final weeks of class (11/18-12/4) will be used for the final conducting projects. In this culminating assignment, students will use piece they selected in the personal score study assignment and transcribe into a flexible ensemble setting, pending approval by the instructor. All harmonies of the excerpt must be represented in the students' final product. Students must provide at least those parts needed

for full instrumentations, utilizing all pitched instruments (C Bass, C Treble, Bb Treble, Eb Treble, F Treble). Students may use Finale/Sibelius on the UNT lab computers (preferred) or free software online such as MuseScore or Noteflight.

Students will need to explain their selection, score study process, and then physically conduct their transcription. They will be graded separately for the conducting and the written/transcribed portion of the project.

Final Exam: Submission of a YouTube link or video file containing a professional portfolio showcasing your conducting from class. This should be a video that could be used for a job application, professional website, etc. Should include at least three pieces of footage of you conducting, as well as a reflection (either in video format or via document submission) on a technique where you saw improvement, and your plans to further your conducting growth in the future.

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.

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. 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. 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>