



Fundamentals of Conducting MUAG 3800

T/Th- 8:00-9:20 AM, MU230 Spring 2024

Instructor: Ms. J. Christine Le (she/her/hers)

Office Hours: By appointment only (email to schedule)

Office: MU217

Email: christinele4@my.unt.edu

Required Materials:

- [*The Conductor as Leader- Ramona Wis*](#)
- Baton (assistance will be provided to ensure baton is appropriate for your body type, ordering instructions will be provided during fitting session)
- Excerpts (these will be posted in Canvas)

Optional Supplemental Materials:

The Anatomy of Conducting Architecture and Essentials- Workbook and Study Guide

A Guide to Score Study by Frank Battisti/Robert Garafalo

COURSE DESCRIPTION/OBJECTIVES

A conductor is an artist, teacher, performer, motivator, administrator, and servant leader, among other things. They must lead, inspire, alter, and reinforce the performance of an ensemble. The three primary objectives of this course are to 1) prepare the mind, 2) train the body, and 3) cultivate the musician so that each conductor may clearly, artistically, and powerfully communicate with members of an ensemble. Each student will learn the fundamentals of conducting and how to apply those skills in choral and instrumental settings. Individual conducting skills will be developed through in-class conducting opportunities and out-of-class practice. In preparation for these conducting experiences, understanding and knowledge of the following will be essential:

1. Fundamentals of conducting principles and techniques
2. Score reading, analysis, and study
3. Fundamentals of transpositions of instruments

CLASS FORMAT

Class will include lectures and demonstrations, student-led exercises, student-led discussions, coachings, and stimulated conducting experiences, in addition to discussions designed for self and peer evaluations. Tests of the competences started above will be given periodically throughout the semester.

GRADING POLICIES

- A. **Grading Scale** The grading scale below will be used to determine final grades (after attendance policy is administered, when applicable):

A=90-100

B=80-89

C=70-79

D=60-69

F=59 or below

B. Grading Formula

Daily Participation (class attendance) three absences will not be counted against your grade, each tardy counts as a third of an absence), preparation and contribution to class activities i(includes bringing your own materials, actively participating daily activities, and being prepared for your time on the podium) - 500 points

Class Assignments (quizzes, transposition exercises, daily assignments, rehearsal observations) - points vary, see CANVAS assignments/modules

Conducting Tests 1, 2, 4, and 5 - 100 points each test

Mid-Term Exam (AKA Conducting Round 3) Three-parts: 300 points total

In-class conducting 100

Marked Score and Quiz 100

Video Reflection 100

Conducting Final Exam (AKA Conducting Exam 6) 400 points total

In-class conducting 200

Marked Score and Quiz 200

Essay (The Conductor as Leader) 75 points

Final Self-Analysis and Personal Conductor's Credo (specific criteria provided) 75 points

ASSIGNMENTS AND POLICIES

- A. **PARTICIPATION GRADE:** Participation grades will be assigned throughout the semester based upon the following criteria: class attendance, preparation for and performance of musical excerpts (both as conductor and ensemble member), participation in and contribution to class discussions,

and demonstration of professional attitudes and behaviors. All daily grades will be averaged together and will constitute the final participation grade for the course.

- B. **GRADED CONDUCTING ROUND:** Six graded conducting rounds (including the Midterm and Final) will be interspersed throughout the semester. Specific musical excerpts will be conducted and video recorded in class. Excluding the final exam, all graded conducting rounds will be conducted by memory. For Conducting Tests 3-6, a self-analysis will be a part of each conductor's grade: After viewing the exam footage, follow-up self-analysis reports from graded conducting rounds (utilizing criteria provided) must be completed and uploaded to Canvas by 11:59pm on the day of your assigned round, unless prearranged with the instructor.
- C. **CONDUCTOR AS LEADER ESSAY:** At the conclusion of the reading of *The Conductor as Leader*, each student will prepare an essay documenting the impact upon the reader by the material presented in the book. The essay should utilize standard 12-sized font and margin, double-spacing, and must be a minimum of two to a maximum of five pages in length. This assignment should present a summary of the "high points" that you found to be particularly impactful on your views or beliefs about leadership and conducting. See the Class Schedule for the essay due date and time.
- D. **MIDTERM EXAM:** A two-part Midterm Exam will focus on topics discussed and assignments completed from the beginning of the semester. Special emphasis will be placed on score marking, score study techniques, conducting terms, and assigned readings.
- E. **FINAL EXAM:** The Final Exam will include the turning in of a marked score (which may be used during the Score Knowledge Quiz), conducting a full piece of choral music, an excerpt from another, and a conducting etude. *Unlike the Midterm, the conducting portion of this exam will not be required to be done from memory.*
- F. **FINAL SELF ANALYSIS:** This is a more indepth self-analysis where you will have an opportunity to address your growth for the semester in addition to the self-analysis of your final conducting round
- G. **PERSONAL CONDUCTOR'S CREDO:** like the "Conductor's Credo" that we discussed on the first class meeting (and can be found in Canvas), this is your opportunity to write up a collection of short statements of belief, understanding and commitment that you will take forward into your life as an artist-teacher-conductor. *Should not exceed one page and is not in essay form.*
- H. **MAKE-UP DAY:** On the final class day of the semester, students will have an opportunity to re-conduct a conducting exam of their choice. Students can choose from conducting rounds 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 (not the final exam). Students must notify the instructor no later than April 25th, 11:59am of their intent to complete a make-up conducting exam.
- I. **EXTRA CREDIT:** If more than 80% of the class completes the SPOTS evaluation, everyone in the class will receive a 3 point bump in their final number grade.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

As a great deal of this course is dependent upon interaction and discussion among class members, daily and prompt attendance is expected, required, and is a sign of professional commitment. You are allowed 2 absences for the semester, after which your grade will be deducted by one letter grade per subsequent absence. There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. If you need to be absent on a day you are scheduled to conduct a practice round, you will forfeit that opportunity. All missed quizzes and conducting exams will receive an automatic zero unless arranged with the instructor. Absences from 20% of the class meetings (6 absences) will result in failure of and removal from the course. Additionally, two tardies equal one absence in this course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & PENALTIES

1. Every member of the faculty, staff, and student body is responsible for protecting the integrity of learning, scholarship, and research. Plagiarism or any form of cheating involves a breach of student-teacher trust. This means that any work submitted under your name is expected to be your own, neither composed by anyone else as a whole or in part nor handed over to another person for complete or partial revision. Be sure to document all ideas that are not your own. Instances of plagiarism or any other act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council and may result in failure of the course.
2. A 10% penalty will be given to all late daily or written assignments unless special arrangements are made prior to the due date. For each additional class day that the assignment is late, an additional 10% will be taken off of the grade.
3. No conducting exam, conducting assignment, or score study quiz will be made up or accepted late without the instructor's consent.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1	
T- Jan 16 Syllabus Review Creative Exercises Fundamental Techniques: Posture, Alignment, Basic 1/2/3/4 patterns Discuss Conductor's Credo Assign: Brown <i>Daring Greatly</i> Ch. 2	Th- Jan 18 Conducting Philosophies Creative Exercises (partner & mirror) Review Fundamental Techniques: Posture, Alignment, Basic 1/2/3/4 patterns Due: Discuss <i>Daring Greatly</i> Ch. 2 Assign: Baton Fitting Sign-Up, Zander <i>Art of Possibility</i> Ch. 1
Week 2	
T- Jan 23 Review Fundamental Techniques: Posture, Alignment, Basic 1/2/3/4 Patterns Conducting Group Work 1: 43211234 exercise Discuss <i>Art of Possibility</i> Ch. 1 Assign: Video Submission of 4321 1234 exercise (due Jan 24, 11:59 PM)	Th- Jan 25 <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i> intro and practice Fundamental Techniques: Introduction to Score Study and Marking, Preparatory Gestures Due: Video Submission of 4321 1234 exercise (due Jan 24, 11:59 PM) Assign: Practice Conducting Test 1: <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i> , 4321 1234 legato/staccato

Week 3	
<p>T- Jan 30</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 1: <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i>, 4321 1234 legato/staccato</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Dynamics, Weight, and Planes</p> <p>Due: Order Baton</p> <p>Assing: Practice Conducting Test 1: <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i>, 4321 1234 legato/staccato</p>	<p>Th- Feb 1</p> <p>Conducting Round 1: <i>Mary Had a Little Lamb</i>, 4321 1234 legato/staccato</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Rebound, Score Reading and Transposition</p> <p>Introduce Conducting Round 2: “What the Dew is to the Flower” 43211234 LH <>, ><</p> <p>Assign: <i>Guide to Score Study</i>, 1-9, Transposition Assignment 1</p>
Week 4	
<p>T- Feb 6</p> <p>Discuss: Score preparation and score study</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 2: “What the Dew is to the Flower,” 43211234 LH <>, ><, Self-recording/self-assessment</p> <p>Due: Transposition Assignment 1, Discuss <i>Guide to Score Study</i></p> <p>Assign: Transposition Assignment 2, Rehearsal Attendance 1 (primary)</p>	<p>Th- Feb 8</p> <p>NO CLASS- TMEA</p>
Week 5	
<p>T- Feb 13</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Conducting Self-Analysis, Practice Habits</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 2: “What the Dew is to the Flower,” 43211234 LH <>, ><</p> <p>Assign/Discuss: Midterm written portion and Conducting Round 3: I vow to Thee</p>	<p>Th- Feb 15</p> <p>Conducting Round 2: “What the Dew is to the Flower,” 43211234 LH <>, ><</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Triple Meter, Continued LH Independence: Cueing and Pattern Size</p> <p>Assign instrumental/vocal groups for “I Vow to Thee”</p> <p>Assign: I Vow to Thee marked score and analysis</p>

Due: Transposition Assignment 2	
Week 6	
<p>T- Feb 20</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Rebound Variation, Syncopation, Offbeats, and Cueing Baton Grip and Technique</p> <p>Small group analysis work: I Vow to Thee</p> <p>Midterm review</p> <p>Assign: Midterm Essay portion and Midterm Video Self-Analysis, <i>The Conductor As Leader</i> Chapter 1</p>	<p>Th- Feb 22</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 3/MIDTERM: I vow to thee my country</p> <p>Discuss: <i>The Conductor As Leader</i> Ch. 1</p> <p>Midterm Review</p> <p>Due: I Vow to Thee marked score and analysis, Discuss <i>The Conductor As Leader</i> Ch. 1</p>
Week 7	
<p>T- Feb 27</p> <p>MIDTERM: WRITTEN PORTION</p> <p>Begin Midterm Conducting Round 3: I Vow to Thee My Country</p>	<p>Th- Feb 29</p> <p>Continue Midterm Conducting Round 3</p> <p>Assign: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 2</p>
Week 8	
<p>T- Mar 5</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: passive vs. active gesture, Fermata Fermata Types/Rhythmic Etudes/Lab Time</p> <p>Discuss <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 2</p> <p>Discuss Self-Analysis (small Groups)</p> <p>Assign: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 3, Practice Conducting Round 4: Conducting Etude</p> <p>DUE: MIDTERM VIDEO Self- Analysis (due by Mar 5, 11:59 PM)</p>	<p>Th- Mar 7</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques, minimization, Melded Gesture Review, Word Stress, Emphasis</p> <p>Rhythmic Etude 1-4 Introduction</p> <p>Lab work: Fermatas and Rhythmic Etudes</p> <p>Discuss <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 3</p> <p>Due: Rehearsal Observation 1 (Primary) Assign: Rehearsal Observation 2 (Non-Primary), Practice conducting Etude over break</p>
SPRING BREAK WEEK	
T- Mar 12	Th- Mar 14

No class (Spring Break)	No class (Spring Break)
Week 9	
<p>T- Mar 19</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 4: Conducting Etude</p> <p>Fundamental Practice: Intro to Asymmetrical Meters</p> <p>Introduce: Conducting Test: <i>Deck the Halls</i></p> <p>Assign: Final Conducting Round: Vivaldi Gloria in Excelsis Deo, Deck the Hall (Score marking/study expectations), <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 4</p>	<p>Th- Mar 21</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 4: Conducting Etude</p> <p>Discuss <i>Conductor as Leader</i>, Ch. 4</p> <p>Introduce: Conducting Test: Vivaldi <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i></p>
Week 10	
<p>T- Mar 26</p> <p>Conducting Round 4: Conducting Etude</p> <p>Fundamental Techniques: Articulation and Introduction to Laban Technique</p> <p>Assign: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 5</p>	<p>Th- Mar 28</p> <p>Small-group Fundamental Practice: Deck the Halls in $\frac{7}{8}$ m. 1-16</p> <p>Discuss <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 5</p> <p>Assign: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Ch. 6-7 Rehearsal Attendance 2 Writeup (non-primary)</p> <p>Due: Rehearsal Attendance 1 Write up (primary)</p>
Week 11	
<p>T- Apr 2</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 5: Deck the Hall</p> <p>Discuss <i>Conductor as Leader</i></p> <p>Assign: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Essay</p>	<p>Th- Apr 4</p> <p>Practice Conducting Test 5: Deck the Hall</p> <p>Small-Group Practice: Fermata Etude, Deck the Halls in $\frac{7}{8}$, mm. 1-8</p> <p>Discuss Final Exam Expectations in Depth</p>
Week 12	
<p>T- Apr 9</p> <p>NO CLASS</p> <p>Due: Rehearsal Attendance 2 Write up (non-primary)</p>	<p>Th- Apr 11</p> <p>Conducting Round 5: Deck the Halls in 7/8</p> <p>Assign: personal Conductor's Credo and Self-analysis of Final Video</p>

Week 13	
T- Apr 16 Practice Conducting Test 6: Vivaldi, <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> (<i>excerpt</i>) Discuss Rehearsal Attendance Observations	Th- Apr 18 Practice Conducting Test 6: Vivaldi, <i>Gloria in Excelsis Deo</i> (<i>excerpt</i>)
Week 14	
T- Apr 23 Final Exam, Written Portion Begin Conducting Round 6- Vivaldi <i>Gloria in Excelsis (full movement)</i>	Th- Apr 25 NO CLASS Due: <i>Conductor as Leader</i> Essay, Choose your make-up exam if needed
Week 15	
T- Apr 30 Continue Conducting Round 6- Vivaldi <i>Gloria in Excelsis (full movement)</i>	Th- May 2 Make-up Day Due: Personal Conductor's Credo and Self-Analysis Final Video (due by May 7, 4pm)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

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](#)

DIVERSITY AND BELONGING

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: [Diversity and 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

See: [Registration Information](#)

Academic Calendar, Spring 2024

See: [Spring 2024 Academic Calendar](#)

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2024

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](#)

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered

hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

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 you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

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](#)

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 issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)

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-registration-guide.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

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

See: [Student 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](#)