



Fundamentals of Conducting

MUAG 3800 Fall 2026

T/Th- 8:05-9:20 AM, MU230

Instructor: Ms. Lauren Lafferty (she/her)

Office Hours: By appointment (email to schedule)

Office: MU217

Email: Lauren.Lafferty@unt.edu

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- Baton (ordering instructions provided in class)
- Musical Excerpts (posted in Canvas)
- Score Study Supplies (colored pencils & ruler if using paper copies)
- Readings & Excerpts (posted in Canvas)

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS:

[The Conductor as Leader – Ramona Wis](#)

The Art of Possibility – Zander and Zander

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. Fundamentals of transpositions of instruments
3. Score reading, analysis, and study

CLASS FORMAT

A variety of instructional approaches will be utilized to help students develop cognitive and performance skills related to conducting. Classes will include lectures, demonstrations, student-led exercises and simulated conducting experiences, in addition to discussions designed for self and peer evaluations. Assessment of the competencies stated above will be through written exams, video recordings of conducting etudes, and in-class conducting sessions.

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. ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Class Assignments – Self-Analysis, Rehearsal Observations, Score Studies, etc.

Points vary, see Canvas assignments/modules

Daily Participation – Preparation and contribution to class activities (includes bringing your own materials, actively participating daily activities, and being prepared for your time on the podium)

4 points per day, 120 points total

Conducting Quizzes – Class performance of conducting etudes or videos uploaded in canvas

20 points each

Conducting Performance Rounds – In-class conducting experiences of short excerpts

50 points each

Written Exams – Midterm & Final

50 points each

Final Self Analysis – a reflection on your growth as a conductor throughout the semester

75 points

ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Daily Participation Grade:

Participation grades will be assigned each day throughout the semester based upon the following criteria: bringing all class materials, 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. Being unprepared for class will result in a loss of 4 points from your participation grade.

- B. Conducting Quizzes and Performance Rounds:

Students' conducting gesture will be assessed through conducting quizzes and performance rounds. Quizzes consist of short conducting etudes, practiced in class and performed in class or submitted via video on Canvas. Performance Rounds are excerpts conducted in-class, with the rest of the class serving as the ensemble. All graded conducting rounds will be conducted by memory.

- C. Written Exams:

The Midterm and Final exams are written tests that assess student knowledge of material from the first and second half of the course. Topics for these exams will be discussed in class.

D. Final Self-Analysis:

This is a more in-depth self-analysis where you will have an opportunity to address your growth for the semester. For this self-analysis, you will need to watch each of your conducting exams in succession (from the beginning of the semester to the end) and provide commentary on where you have noticed growth, see room for more improvement, detail practice habits you developed this semester that assisted in your progress, and general takeaways from your experience in conducting class that can translate to the next phases your educational and professional career. The essay should utilize standard 12-sized font and 1-inch margins, double-spacing, and must be a minimum of two and a maximum of four pages in length.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

A great deal of this course is dependent upon interaction and discussion among class members, and observation of their conducting and coaching. As such, 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 half-letter grade per subsequent absence (5%). There is no differentiation between excused and unexcused absences. If you need to be absent on a day you are scheduled to perform a conducting round, you will forfeit that opportunity. All missed conducting rounds will receive an automatic zero unless arranged with the instructor. **Absences from 20% of the class meetings (6 absences) will result in failure of the course.** Additionally, three tardies equal one absence in this course. A tardy will be considered any arrival time to class after 8:10 AM. Absences that are a result of ODA accommodations are an exception to this policy and will be addressed between the student and instructor/ODA office as necessary. Attendance records are available on Canvas and are updated frequently. Use these to keep track of your attendance status.

Total Absences	Course Grade Penalty	Maximum Final Grade
3	-5%	95% (A)
4	-10%	90% (A)
5	-15%	85%

OTHER POLICIES

A. Return of student work:

Students should expect a grade on submitted work within two weeks of the due date. If an assignment is turned in late, it will be given lower priority than other assignments that were turned in on time and still need to be graded.

B. Jury scheduling:

Students should not schedule their end-of-semester jury against a regularly scheduled class.

C. Cell phones:

Although cell phones may be used to video record your time on the podium, they may not be used to display music (i.e., you may not read your part off your phone). The minimum screen size that is acceptable for music reading in class is a 9.7" iPad (or similar). Students without access to a sufficiently large screen should download and print all PDF music.

D. Communication:

For this and all UNT courses, please check your UNT email and our course's Canvas page on a regular basis. Time-sensitive communication, course announcements, and reminders will be sent to this email address and posted on this course's Canvas page. The student is responsible for all disseminated information. Please see UNT's Online Communication Tips (<https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips>) for guidance.

E. Add or drop policy:

Please be aware 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. After the 12th class day, students must first submit a completed "Request to Drop" form to the Registrar's Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Fall 2026 is August 21st.

F. Syllabus policies:

I anticipate that we will follow the schedule I've outlined in this syllabus, but I may adjust based on what happens in class. I may also change the basis for the course grade (if I need to eliminate an assignment or something of that nature). If I do so, I will so inform you in writing. Remaining in the course after reading this syllabus will signal that you accept the possibility of changes and responsibility for being aware of them.

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 another entity 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 Office of the Provost and the Office for Student Success 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

VOCABULARY

- Fundamental Techniques: Lecture
- Introduce: group work as a class, no individual podium time
- Coaching: podium time in front of the class, getting feedback on what you practiced
- Quiz: one line conducting etudes, submitted via Canvas video or performed in class
- Round: longer excerpts of music used to practice gesture
- Perform: conducting the round in front of class for a grade
- Assign: work on for next time
- Due: submit by the date listed

WEEK 1

Tuesday August 18

- Creative Exercises
- Syllabus Review
- Fundamental Techniques: Alignment, Basic 1/2/3/4 patterns
- Introduce: Canons (in unison)

Assign: Read Brown *Daring Greatly* Ch. 2, Get a Baton, Practice Canons (in unison)

Due: Daring Greatly Ch. 2 Canvas Response (Wed Aug 19 11:59pm)

Due: Order A Baton (Wed Aug 19 11:59pm)

Thursday August 20

- Discuss “The Power of Vulnerability”
- Creative Exercises (partner & mirror)
- Fundamental Techniques: Review Day 1 material
- Partner Coaching: Canons (in unison)
- Introduce: 4321 1234

Assign: Practice 4321 1234

WEEK 2

Tuesday August 25

- Partner Coaching: 4321 1234
- Fundamental Techniques: Preps
- Introduce: Round 1 Mary Had a Little Lamb/Lightly Row and rubric

Assign: Practice 4321 1234, Round 1, Star Spangled Banner Prep

Due: Video Submission of 4321 1234 (Wed Aug 26 11:59pm)

Thursday August 27

- Fundamental Techniques: Baton Grip and Technique, Review Preparatory Gestures
- Coaching: Round 1 Mary Had a Little Lamb/Lightly Row
- Practice: Star Spangled Banner Prep (if time)

Assign: Practice Star Spangled Banner Prep, Round 1

WEEK 3 -----

Tuesday September 1

- **Perform: Round 1 Mary Had A Little Lamb/Lightly Row**
- Fundamental Techniques: Dynamics
- Introduce: Etude 1 (Lines 1, 2, 3, 4; dynamics only)
- Review Star Spangled if necessary

Assign: Practice Etude 1 (dynamics only) for Quiz 1

Due: Star Spangled Banner Prep (Wed Sep 2 11:59pm)

Thursday September 3

- Quiz 1: Etude 1 (dynamics only)
- Review

WEEK 4 -----

Tuesday September 8

- Fundamental Techniques: Articulations
- Review Dynamics Etude 1
- Introduce: Quiz 2 (Etude 1, articulation)

Assign: Read “Score Study Process” and “Score Markings and Analysis”, Practice Quiz 2

Due: “Score Study Process” and “Score Markings and Analysis”, Canvas Response (Wed Sep 9 at 11:59pm)

Thursday September 10

- Coaching: Quiz 2 (articulation only)
- Fundamental Techniques: Score Study, Discuss readings
- Introduce: Round 2 I Vow To Thee

Assign: Practice I Vow to Thee, Practice Quiz 2

WEEK 5 -----

Tuesday September 15

- Coaching: Quiz 2 Lines 1, 2, 3, 4 (articulations and dynamics together)
- Discuss: Group Score Study of I Vow to Thee (continued)
- Coaching: I Vow to Thee (as many students as possible)

Assign: Practice I Vow to Thee

Thursday September 17

- Coaching: I Vow to Thee (continued from last class)
- Discuss: Self Analysis of Round 2
- Fundamental Techniques: Cues
- Introduce: Canons (in canon)

Assign: Practice I Vow To Thee, Canons, Quiz 2

Due: Quiz 2 (Sun Sep 20 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 6 -----

Tuesday September 22

- **Perform: Round 2 I Vow to Thee**
- Coaching: Canons (in canon)
- Practice: Cue Exercises
- Introduce: Round 3 We Shall Walk (cues only)

Assign: We Shall Walk cues, Prepare We Shall Walk parts

Thursday September 24

- Coaching: Cue Exercises
- Practice: We Shall Walk (cues only)
- Discuss: We Shall Walk Score Analysis

Assign: Practice We Shall Walk

Due: Self-Analysis of Round 2 (Thurs Sep 24 at 11:59pm)

Due: We Shall Walk Score Analysis (Mon Sep 28 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 7 -----

Tuesday September 29

- Midterm Exam Review
- Group Practice: We Shall Walk

Assign: Study for Midterm Exam, Practice We Shall Walk

Thursday October 1

- **Midterm Exam – begins at 8:05, ends at 8:25**
- Coaching: We Shall Walk
- Discuss: Rehearsal Observation

Assign: Practice Round 3, Rehearsal Observation

WEEK 8 -----

Tuesday October 6

- Coaching: We Shall Walk

Assign: Practice Round 3

Thursday October 8

- **Perform: Round 3 We Shall Walk**
- Fundamental Techniques: Score Reading and Transposition

Due: Transposition Practice (Fri Oct 9 at 11:59pm)

Due: Self-Analysis of Round 3 (Fri Oct 9 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 9 -----

Tuesday October 13

- Transposition Review
- Fundamental Techniques: Fermatas
- Introduce: Jesu Meine Freude
- Introduce: Transposition Practice 2

Assign: Practice Jesu Meine Freude

Due: Transposition Practice 2 (Wed Oct 14 at 11:59pm)

Thursday October 15

BRING INSTRUMENTS STARTING THIS DAY

- Coaching: Jesu Meine Freude
- Introduce: Round 4 Horkstow Grange
- Discuss: Round 4 Horkstow Grange Score Analysis

Assign: Practice Horkstow Grange, Prepare Horkstow Grange parts, study for Transposition Quiz

Due: Horkstow Grange Score Analysis (Mon Oct 19 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 10 -----

Tuesday October 20

- **Transposition Quiz**
- Coaching: Round 4 Horkstow Grange

Assign: Practice Horkstow Grange, Complete Rehearsal Observation

Thursday October 22

- Coaching: Round 4 Horkstow Grange

Assign: Practice Horkstow Grange

Due: Rehearsal Observation (Fri Oct 23 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 11 -----

Tuesday October 27

- Coaching: Round 4 Horkstow Grange
- Introduce: Round 5 Tanz

Assign: Practice Horkstow Grange, Tanz

Thursday October 29

- **Perform: Round 4 Horkstow Grange**
- Introduce: Round 5 Tanz

Assign: Practice Round 5 Tanz, Prepare Tanz parts

Due: Self-Analysis of Round 4 (Mon Nov 2 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 12 -----

Tuesday November 3

- Discuss: Tanz Score Analysis

Assign: Practice Tanz

Due: Tanz Score Analysis (Wed Nov 4 at 11:59pm)

Thursday November 5

- Coaching: Round 5 Tanz
- Discuss: Advanced Score Analysis

Assign: Practice Tanz

WEEK 13 -----

Tuesday November 10

- **Perform: Round 5 Tanz from Carmina Burana**
- Introduce: Round 6 Vivaldi Gloria
- Discuss: Vivaldi Gloria Score Analysis

Assign: Practice Vivaldi Gloria, Prepare Vivaldi Gloria parts

Due: Self-Analysis of Round 5 (Wed Nov 11 at 11:59pm)

Thursday November 12

- Advanced Meters, Advanced Score Study
- Discuss: Vivaldi Gloria Score Analysis

Assign: Practice Vivaldi Gloria, Vivaldi Gloria Score Analysis

Due: Vivaldi Gloria Score Analysis (Mon Nov 16 at 11:59pm)

WEEK 14 -----

Tuesday November 17

- Coaching: Vivaldi Gloria
- Final Exam Review

Assign: Practice Vivaldi Gloria, study for Final Exam

Thursday November 19

- Coaching: Vivaldi Gloria

Assign: Practice Vivaldi Gloria, study for Final Exam

THANKSGIVING WEEK -----

WEEK 15

Tuesday December 1

- **Final Exam**
- **Perform: Round 6 Vivaldi Gloria**

Assign: Practice Vivaldi Gloria

Thursday December 3

- **Perform: Round 6 Vivaldi Gloria (continued)**

Due: Final Self-Analysis (Tue Dec 10 at 10:00am)

DEFIBRILLATORS IN THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC

- Music Building: Across from the west side of the Music Commons, directly across from the elevator
- Music Building: Third floor hallway, across from the staircase that comes up from the Copy Room. Next to Room 322
- Music Building: Across from the Copy Room next to Room 293
- Music Building: Voertman Lobby by the big double set of doors that lead out to the courtyard
- Music Building: Main Office (247) under the student worker's desk
- Music Annex: Next to room MA117, near the triple set of doors on the east side of the building
- Music Practice Building North: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Music Practice Building South: First floor on the Avenue C side
- Bain Hall: First floor by the restrooms
- Murchison Performing Arts Center: Located off the main lobby, beyond the grand staircase, across from the single occupancy restroom (next to the public water fountains)

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/

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. (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: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

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

Semester Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

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

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>

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](#)

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

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/fall-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>

Additional Resources for Faculty

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (including sample statement for syllabi)

See: [Faculty Guide for the Use of AI](#)

Link: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/artificial-intelligence/AIfaculty>

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/>