

Course Number and Title: MUS 336.2 CONDUCTING

Semester: Fall 2006

Location: Peter Hall, Hurd Center for Music and Art

Time: Monday and Wednesday 12:50-2:00 pm

Prerequisite: MUS 334.2 Intro to Conducting or permission of instructor

Instructor: Mr. James Barnes

Office: Rm. 303, Music Building

Office Hours: posted on office door

Office Phone: 610-861-1672

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Goals of this Course:

- To be able to conduct 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 patterns and their subdivisions with ease
- Demonstrate: preparations and cut-offs, cueing, fermatas, dynamics, articulations, tempo changes, complex and irregular meters, phrasing, and expressive gestures
- Use the left hand for dynamic control, cueing, and phrasing
- Demonstrate score study skills, involving ear training, analysis, research, style interpretation, score reading, and score study by conducting effectively
- Demonstrate skills necessary to make an emotional and musical connection with the ensemble
- Conduct efficient and well-planned rehearsals, diagnosing musical problems quickly and generating appropriate solutions, in an effective, yet personal rehearsal style
- Demonstrate knowledge relating to choral, orchestra, and band music
- Evaluate, refine, and recognize score-learning, conducting, rehearsal and performing skills of others and of yourself

Required Texts:

Demaree, Robert and Moses, Don. *The Complete Conductor*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1995

Hartshorn, William, ed. *Five Centuries of Choral Music*. Milwaukee: G. Schirmer, Inc., 1963.

Equipment: a baton of your choice

Grading:

Grades will be based on daily conducting and assignment preparation, class participation (which includes attendance), preparation for the ensemble, score reading sessions, conducting projects, oral exams, and overall improvement. See below for distribution of points. Late assignments will not be accepted. If you need accommodation for this class, you must first contact Student Services!

Conducting Preparation and Assignments (10%)

Make sure you have carefully prepared the music and/or exercises to conduct for the day. You are to treat each conducting opportunity, no matter how brief, as a rehearsal, incorporating the proper conducting preparation, etiquette, form, and technique. **The instructor reserves the right to relieve any unprepared student from conducting that day and give him or her an "F" for the day.** If you are to conduct for a specified length of time, you should always have a written rehearsal plan and a watch to keep track of elapsing time. You may be asked to show this rehearsal plan before or after you conduct. Podium time is precious. If you go over your allotted time, you will be taking time from someone else.

In addition, everyone (no exceptions!) will be expected to sing and play for each other. Other people are relying on your preparation for their musical experience, so make certain you can sing and play the vocal and piano parts to the best of your ability.

Participation and Attendance (50%)

Attendance (10%)

Participation is an important part of the grade, as it contains several factors: attendance, class discussion and participation. This class is highly experiential. Much of what you learn in the course happens in the class through discussion and interaction with and observation of others. In addition, the class members form the conducting ensemble. Each class member depends on everyone being there, so there is an ensemble to conduct. Thus, your attendance to every class is essential! Every absence must be cleared with the instructor **in advance**. **Any unexcused absence will result in dropping a grade point (ex. A- to B+)**. Further absences may result in failing the course.

Student-Led Discussions (20%)

Students will take turns leading class discussions on the assigned readings. Everyone is responsible for all the readings, but individuals will be assigned specific chapters for which they will organize and lead a 15 minute class discussion. Leaders will be expected to ask insightful, stimulating questions and get everyone involved in the discussion. Feel free to make assignments on the class preceding the day of your discussion.

In-class Assessments (20%)

These assessments will cover specific physical and aural conducting skills that have been covered during class, such as preparations, cut-offs, handling fermatas, articulations, dynamic control, use of the left hand, etc. Specific skills to be tested will be made known the week before each exam.

Score-Reading Assignments (10%)

Four classes during the semester class will be devoted to individual score-reading appointments with the instructor. For each meeting you will be asked to play and sing parts in a specific work. Assignments will be given based on your level of instrumental and vocal ability.

Midterm (15%) and Final (15%) Projects

A major portion of the midterm and final will consist of your planning and conducting two rehearsals on a piece of your choice. Rehearsals will be videotaped and reviewed by you and the instructor in individual sessions. Much of your grade for these projects will be dependent upon your improvement from the first to the second rehearsal.

CLASS SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Date	Topic	Read/Prepare for that day
Aug 28	Introduction and review	
Aug. 30	Score preparation, analysis	Read TCC Ch. 1, 2, 13 (discussion 1)
Sep. 4	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Labor Day</i>
Sep. 6	Phrasing, tempo changes	Expressive gestures Read TCC Ch. 3-5 (discussion 2)
Sep. 11	Score reading assignment 1	Read TCC Ch. 6 & 8 (discussion 3)
Sep. 13	Left hand, cueing, listening	Read TCC Ch. 7 (discussion 4)
Sep. 18	Left hand (continued)	Choose Midterm piece
Sep. 20	The Fermata	Read TCC Ch. 17-19 (discussion 5)
Sep. 25	Choral Conducting	Read TCC Ch. 9 (discussion 6) ; discuss midterm pieces
Sep. 27	Score reading II	play and sing Midterm piece
Oct. 2	Midterm Projects	Short individual rehearsals
Oct. 4	Midterm Projects	Short individual rehearsals
Oct. 9	<i>Fall Recess</i>	<i>No class</i>
Oct. 11	Conducting voices	No assignment over break
Oct. 16	Conducting voices	Read TCC Ch. 9 (discussion 7)
Oct. 18	Conducting voices	Read TCC Ch. 20 (discussion 8)
Oct. 23		Read TCC Ch. 10, 14 Renaissance (discussion 9)
Oct. 25	<i>No class</i>	<i>Dept to NYC</i>
Oct. 30	Further score study	Read TCC Ch. 11, 15, 21 Baroque and Classical (discussion 10)
Nov. 1	Preparing for performance	Read TCC Ch. 12, 16 Romantic and 20 th Century (discussion 11)
Nov. 6	Preparing for performance	Read TCC Ch. 23 Concerti (discussion 12)
Nov. 8	Advanced gestures	Read TCC Ch. 24 Opera (discussion 13)
Nov. 13	Advanced gestures	Choose final projects and rehearse
Nov. 15	Advanced gestures	Choose final projects and rehearse
Nov. 20	<i>No class</i>	<i>NASM conference, Chicago</i>
Nov. 22	<i>No class</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Recess</i>
Nov. 27	Final Projects	Short individual rehearsals
Nov. 29	Final Projects	Short individual rehearsals
Dec. 4	Final Projects	
Dec. 6	Final Projects	
Dec. 11	Final Projects	