

## **INTERMEDIATE CONDUCTING Course Syllabus**

**Course Number and Title:** MUS 336.2 Conducting  
**Semester:** Fall 2007  
**Location:** Peter Hall, Center for Music and Art  
**Time:** Monday-Wednesday 12:50-2:00am  
**Prerequisite:** MUS 334.2 or permission of instructor

**Instructor:** Dr. Paula Zerkle  
**Office:** Rm. 308, Music Building  
**Office Hours:** M/W 2p-3p  
**Office Phone:** 610-861-1681  
**Email:** zerkle@moravian.edu

### **Outcomes for this Course:**

- Conduct 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 patterns and their subdivisions with ease
- Demonstrate control of: 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 and rehearsing 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
- Continually recognize, evaluate, and refine score-learning, conducting, rehearsal and performing skills of yourself and others

### **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; a blank camcorder tape

### **Grading:**

Grades will be based on daily conducting and assignment preparation, participation (including 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.

### **Conducting Preparation (15%)**

Make sure you have carefully prepared the music and/or exercises to conduct for each class. If you are not properly prepared, you'll receive a "0" for the day. Consider each chance to conduct, no matter how brief, as a rehearsal, incorporating the proper conducting preparation, etiquette, form, and technique. For scheduled rehearsals in class, create a written rehearsal plan and be prepared to hand it in. Podium time is precious. Keep track of your time, so you don't shortchange someone else.

### **Class Participation and Attendance (10%)**

Your attendance is required at every class. Much of what you learn in the course happens in class discussion and interaction with other students, and the other class members depend on you to be part of their ensemble (which will involve everyone playing and singing). Every absence must be cleared with the instructor in advance. Any unexcused absence will result in lowering your grade (ex. A- to B+).

#### **Student-Led Discussions**

You will each take turns leading discussions on assigned readings. For your designated section or chapter, plan for about 5-10 minutes of conversation, which you motivate by posing thoughtful, stimulating questions. Feel free to make written or oral assignments in advance.

### **Score-Reading Assignments (20%)**

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

### Oral Midterm (10%) and Final (15%)

Two oral exams will be given in class during as part of the midterm and final. These tests 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.

### Midterm (10%) and Final (20%) 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 you will be expected to review them and write up a summary of strengths and areas for improvement. 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	readings and preparations for the day
Aug.	basic right hand	introduction and review
Aug.	score preparation,	CC ch. 1-2; prepare Mozart "Ave verum corpus" (CC p.
Sep. 3	labor day	no class
Sep. 5	articulations	CC ch. 3 (prep exs. 3-8 and 3-9), ch. 19; Mozart
Sep.	beat patterns,	CC ch. 4-5 (prep all exercises); Mozart (continued)
Sep.	score reading	individual appointments (rm. 308)
Sep.	fermatas	CC ch. 6 (prep all exercises); prepare "O große Lieb"
Sep.	left hand, cueing	CC ch. 7; decide midterm piece (choral); Bach
Sep.	leadership	CC ch. 8 and Lautzenheiser (handout); prepare Morley
Sep.	choral conducting;	CC ch. 9, review ch. 10-12; discuss midterm pieces;
Oct. 1	score reading	play and sing midterm piece (rm. 308)
Oct. 3	<b>midterm projects -</b>	short rehearsals
Oct. 8	fall recess	no class
Oct.	<b>oral midterm</b>	skills test
Oct.	<b>midterm projects -</b>	extended rehearsals
Oct.	<b>midterm projects -</b>	extended rehearsals
Oct.	department opera	no class
Oct.	instrumental	CC ch. 13, review ch. 14-16; prepare Orff "Tanz" from
Oct.	instrumental	Orff (continued)
Oct.	music program	CC ch. 17; prepare Stravinsky, excerpts from <i>L'Histoire</i>
Nov. 5	score reading	individual appointments (rm. 308)
Nov. 7	going deeper	CC ch. 18; Stravinsky (continued)
Nov.	performance	CC ch. 20; Stravinsky (continued); prepare Haydn
Nov.	advanced gestures	Haydn (continued)
Nov.	advanced gestures	Haydn (continued)
Nov.	thanksgiving break	no class
Nov.	<b>final projects -</b>	short individual rehearsals
Nov.	score reading	play and sing final piece (rm. 308)

Dec. 3	<b>final projects -</b>	extended rehearsals
Dec. 5	<b>oral final</b>	skills test
Dec.	<b>final projects -</b>	extended rehearsals
Final	<b>final projects -</b>	extended rehearsals