

# INTERMEDIATE CONDUCTING

## Course Syllabus

**Course Number and Title:** MUS 336.2 Conducting  
**Semester:** Fall 2008  
**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  
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### 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:

Kohut, Daniel L. and Joe W. Grant. *Learning to Conduct and Rehearse*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1990.

**Equipment:** a baton of your choice

### 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+).

### 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. 25	review	introduction and review
Aug. 27	score reading assignment 1 (2-5 hrs)	LCR ch. 6; individual appointments (rm. 308)
Sep. 1	<i>labor day</i>	<i>no class</i>
Sep. 3	score preparation, analysis	LCR ch. 7; prep Mozart "Ave verum corpus" (handout); score preparation summary
Sep. 8	technique review	review LCR ch. 1 & 2; Mozart (continued)
Sep. 10	continuation of technique	Mozart (continued)
Sep. 15	intermediate techniques	LCR ch. 3; prepare <i>Slovanic Dance</i> (p. 155) or Part III of <i>Scheherazade</i> (p. 170)
Sep. 17	intermediate techniques	decide midterm piece; continue pieces
Sep. 22	Leadership, rehearsal techniques	LCR ch. 8; Lautzenheiser (handout); continue pieces
Sep. 24	score reading assignment 2 (6-8 hrs)	play and sing midterm piece (rm. 308)
Sep. 29	<b>midterm pieces — part I</b>	<b>7-minute rehearsals</b>
Oct. 1	<b>midterm pieces — part I</b>	<b>7-minute rehearsals</b>
Oct. 6	<i>fall recess</i>	<i>no class</i>
Oct. 8	<b>oral exam, start midterm pieces</b>	<b>skills test; 9-minute rehearsals</b>
Oct. 13	<b>midterm pieces — part II</b>	<b>9-minute rehearsals</b>
Oct. 15	<b>midterm pieces — part II</b>	<b>9-minute rehearsals</b>
Oct. 20	advanced gestures	LCR ch. 4; prepare Orff "Tanz" from <i>Carmina Burana</i> (handout)
Oct. 22	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
Oct. 27	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
Oct. 29	score reading assignment 3 (6-8 hrs)	individual appointments (rm. 308)
Nov. 3	going deeper	LCR ch. 5; decide Final piece; introduction to recitative
Nov. 5	beyond technique, recitative	prepare Haydn "recitative no. 21" from <i>Creation</i> (handout)
Nov. 10	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
Nov. 12	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
Nov. 17	score reading assignment 4 (10-15 hrs)	play and sing final piece (rm. 308)
Nov. 19	<b>final pieces — part I</b>	<b>7-minute rehearsals</b>
Nov. 24	<b>final pieces — part I</b>	<b>7-minute rehearsals</b>
Nov. 26	<i>thanksgiving break</i>	<i>no class</i>
Dec. 1	<b>oral exam</b>	<b>skills test</b>
Dec. 3	<b>final pieces — part II</b>	<b>15-minute rehearsals</b>
Dec. 8	<b>final pieces — part II</b>	<b>15-minute rehearsals</b>
Dec. 10	<b>final pieces — part II</b>	<b>15-minute rehearsals</b>
Final TBA	<b>final pieces — part II</b>	<b>15-minute rehearsals</b>