

INTERMEDIATE CONDUCTING

Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title: MUS 336.2 Conducting
Semester: Fall 2010
Location: Peter Hall, Center for Music and Art
Time: Monday-Wednesday 1:10-2:20pm (5b)
Prerequisite: MUS 334.2 or permission of instructor

Instructor: Dr. Paula Zerkle
Office: Rm. 308, Music Building
Office Hours: M/W 2:20p-3p
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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

There are no required texts – all materials will be handed out or available on Blackboard.

Equipment: a baton of your choice

Grading:

Grades will be based on daily conducting and assignment preparation, participation (including attendance and your preparation for the class 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 (20%)

Make sure you have carefully prepared the music and/or exercises to conduct for each class. Your grade for the day will reflect your level of preparation. Plan out what you will conduct, having clearly in mind what you would like to accomplish during your session, however brief it may be. Always create a short written rehearsal plan and be prepared to hand it in. Your preparation grade also includes a weekly journal you will be keeping on Blackboard in order to document some of the issues you encounter while preparing your scores and other work for class. Remember: podium time is precious. Get used to keeping track of your time in front of the ensemble; it goes quicker than you think.

Class Participation and Attendance (10%)

Your attendance is required at every class. Please come 5 minutes early to help with set up. Much of what you learn in the course happens in class discussion and interaction with other students. During class you will either be conducting or performing for someone who is. Any absence must be cleared with the instructor in advance or with a doctor's note. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY MISSED MATERIAL OR SCHEDULED CONDUCTING SLOT.** Any unexcused absence will result in lowering your attendance grade by 5 points.

Score-Reading Assignments (20%)

Four classes during the semester class will be devoted to score-reading appointments with the instructor in her office. For each meeting you are expected to play and sing parts to your ability level in an assigned work.

Oral Midterm (10%)

An oral exam will be given in class as part of the midterm. This test will cover specific conducting skills, such as preparations, cut-offs, handling fermatas, articulations, dynamic control, use of the left hand, etc. Specifics of the test will be made known a week before the exam.

Midterm (15%) and Final (25%) Projects

The major portion of the midterm and final will consist of your planning and conducting two rehearsals on pieces of your choice. Rehearsals will be videotaped. You will review them and write up a summary of your strengths and challenges. These grades will be based largely on your ability to improve from the first rehearsal to the second.

CLASS SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

date	topic	preparations for the day
Aug. 30	review	review and assessment
Sep. 1	score reading 1	duets on Mozart "Ave verum corpus" – pair appts (rm. 308)
Sep. 6	<i>labor day</i>	<i>no class</i>
Sep. 8	phrase	prep Mozart to conduct; score prep summary
Sep. 13	score preparation, analysis	Mozart (continued)
Sep. 15	continuation of technique	Mozart (continued); revised score prep summary
Sep. 20	intermediate techniques	prep Part III of <i>Scheherazade</i> (handout)
Sep. 22	intermediate techniques	decide midterm piece; continue <i>Scheherazade</i>
Sep. 27	score reading 2	play and sing midterm piece – individual appts. (rm. 308)
Sep. 29	oral midterm skills test	
Oct. 4	midterm pieces – part I	7-minute rehearsals
Oct. 6	midterm pieces – part I	7-minute rehearsals
Oct. 11	<i>fall recess</i>	<i>no class</i>
Oct. 13	midterm pieces – part II	10-minute rehearsals
Oct. 18	midterm pieces – part II	10-minute rehearsals
Oct. 20	midterm pieces – part II	10-minute rehearsals
Oct. 25	advanced gestures	prepare Orff "Tanz" from <i>Carmina Burana</i> (handout)
Oct. 27	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
Nov. 1	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
Nov. 3	score reading 3	perform duets on handout – appts before opera trip (rm. 308)
Nov. 8	going deeper	decide Final piece; introduction to recitative
Nov. 10	beyond technique, recitative	prepare Haydn "recitative no. 21" from <i>Creation</i> (handout)
Nov. 15	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
Nov. 17	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
Nov. 22	score reading 4	play and sing final piece – individual appointments (rm. 308)
Nov. 24	<i>thanksgiving break</i>	<i>no class</i>
Nov. 29	final pieces – part I	7-minute rehearsals
Dec. 1	final pieces – part I	7-minute rehearsals
Dec. 6	final pieces – part II	14-minute rehearsals
Dec. 8	final pieces – part II	14-minute rehearsals
Dec 16 8:30a	final pieces – part II	14-minute rehearsals