

INTERMEDIATE CONDUCTING

Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title: MUS 336.2 Conducting

Semester: Fall 2012

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

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

There are no required texts. All materials will be handed out in class.

Equipment: a baton of your choice

Grading:

Grades will be based on daily conducting and assignment preparation, participation (including attendance and 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. If you are absent, you are responsible for assignments and missed material from other class members and getting your work in on time.**

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Elaine Mara, assistant director of learning services for academic and disability support at 1307 Main Street, or by calling 610-861-1510. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Conducting Preparation (15%)

You must carefully prepare 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. 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. Any absence must be cleared with the instructor in advance or with a doctor's note. Any unexcused absence will result in lowering your attendance grade by 5 points. And remember, you are responsible for any missed material.

Plan to come 5 minutes early to class 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.

Score-Reading Assignments (20%)

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

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

An oral exam will be given in class as part of the midterm and final. These tests 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 the week before the exam.

Midterm (15%) and Final (20%) 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 strengths and challenges. Much of your grade will depend upon your improvement from the first to the second rehearsal.

CLASS SCHEDULE

(subject to change)

week	date	topic	readings and preparations for the day
1	Aug. 27	review and phrasing	Dona Nobis Pacem
	Aug. 29	score study	prepare Mozart "Ave verum corpus"; score prep summary due
2	Sep. 3	<i>labor day</i>	<i>no class</i>
	Sep. 5	score reading 1	(rm. 308) duets on Mozart "Ave verum corpus"
3	Sep. 10	phrasing	Mozart (continued)
	Sep. 12	expression	Mozart (continued)
4	Sep. 17	intermediate techniques	Prepare Part III of Rimsky-Korsakov "Scheherazade"
	Sep. 19	intermediate techniques	Scheherazade (continued); decide midterm piece
5	Sep. 24	score reading 2	play and sing midterm piece (rm. 308) – individual appts.
	Sep. 26	midterm skills test	
6	Oct. 1	midterm pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
	Oct. 3	midterm pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
7	Oct. 8	<i>fall recess</i>	<i>no class</i>
	Oct. 10	midterm pieces – part II	8-minute rehearsals
8	Oct. 15	midterm pieces – part II	8-minute rehearsals
	Oct. 17	advanced gestures	prepare Orff "Tanz" from <i>Carmina Burana</i>
9	Oct. 22	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
	Oct. 24	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
10	Oct. 29	score reading 3	duets on handout (rm. 308)
	Oct. 31	going deeper	decide Final piece; introduction to recitative
11	Nov. 5	beyond technique	prepare Haydn "recitative no. 21" from <i>Creation</i> (handout)
	Nov. 7	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
12	Nov. 12	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
	Nov. 14	score reading 4	play and sing final piece (rm. 308) – individual appointments
13	Nov. 19	final skills test	
	Nov. 21	<i>thanksgiving break</i>	<i>no class</i>
14	Nov. 26	final pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
	Nov. 28	final pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
15	Dec. 3	final pieces – part II	20-minute rehearsals
	Dec. 5	final pieces – part II	20-minute rehearsals
final	Dec. 11 1:30p	final pieces – part II	20-minute rehearsals