

INTERMEDIATE CONDUCTING

Course Syllabus

Course Number and Title: MUS 336.2 Conducting
Semester: Fall 2015
Location: Peter Hall, Center for Music and Art
Time: Monday-Wednesday 1:10pm - 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

Equipment: a baton of your choice.

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

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 skills exams, and overall improvement. See below for distribution of percentage 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 or prepared on time.**

Daily Conducting Preparation (15%)

You will 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. For scheduled rehearsals, make sure you 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 quickly!

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.

Skills Tests (2 @ 10% each)

Conducting skill exams will be given in class at midterm and during the final. These tests will cover specific conducting skills, such as preparations, cut-offs, fermatas, tempo changes, 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

Your 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.

Accommodations:

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Academic Support Services in the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

Class Schedule (subject to change):

week	date	topic	preparations for the day
1	Aug. 31	review and phrasing	Dona Nobis Pacem
	Sep. 2	score study	Mozart "Ave verum corpus"
2	Sep. 7	score study	score preparation summary due
	Sep. 9	score reading 1	Mozart "Ave verum corpus" (rm. 308) - duets
3	Sep. 14	phrasing	Mozart (continued)
	Sep. 16	expression	Mozart (continued)
4	Sep. 21	intermediate techniques	Part III of "Scheherazade"
	Sep. 23	intermediate techniques	Scheherazade (continued); decide midterm piece
5	Sep. 28	score reading 2	play & sing midterm piece (rm. 308) - solos
	Sep. 30	midterm pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
6	Oct. 5	midterm pieces – part I	8-minute rehearsals
	Oct. 7	skills test	preps, cues, tempos, meters, LH

7	Oct. 12	<i>fall recess</i>	<i>no class</i>
	Oct. 14	midterm pieces – part II	8-minute rehearsals
8	Oct. 19	midterm pieces – part II	8-minute rehearsals
	Oct. 21	advanced gestures	Orff "Tanz" from <i>Carmina Burana</i>
9	Oct. 26	advanced gestures	Orff (continued)
	Oct. 28	<i>Dept Opera Trip</i>	<i>no class</i>
10	Nov. 2	score reading 3	score handout (rm. 308) - duets
	Nov. 4	going deeper	decide Final piece; introduction to recitative
11	Nov. 9	beyond technique recitative	Haydn "recitative no. 21" from <i>Creation</i>
	Nov. 11	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
12	Nov. 16	beyond technique	Haydn (continued)
	Nov. 18	score reading 4	play and sing final piece (rm. 308) - solos
13	Nov. 23	final pieces – part I	five 14-minute rehearsals
	Nov. 25	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>no class</i>
14	Nov. 30	final pieces – part I	five 14-minute rehearsals
	Dec. 2	final pieces – part I	five 14-minute rehearsals
15	Dec. 7	final pieces – part II	four 15-minute rehearsals
	Dec. 9	final pieces – part II	four 15-minute rehearsals
final	Dec. 14 1:30a- 4:30p	skills test and final pieces – part II	1 hour + seven 15-minute rehearsals