



University of Central Florida
School of Performing Arts - Music
MUG3104 – Basic Conducting
Fall 2019
Tuesday/Thursday 10:30 – 11:20 AM
PAC M0150

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Course Description

Basic Conducting (MUG3104) is an introductory class in the techniques and craft of conducting. Goals of the course include the development of basic gestural and baton techniques for a wide range of vocal and instrumental contexts, developing basic non-verbal communication skills, and exploring and cultivating an initial understanding of score study and preparation, including how that understanding might manifest itself in eventual professional & pedagogical pursuits.

Course Goals

A) A Philosophy of Conducting

- i) Understanding the difference between directing, teaching, and conducting
- ii) Understanding the difference between navigating and creating
- iii) Develop basic understanding of the physiology and psychology of conducting
- iv) Develop a basic understanding of the issues inherent to conducting and rehearsing, both as separate and combined activities

B) Develop a BALANCED conducting stance and proper technical skills for expressive movement

- i) Body Posture
- ii) Baton Grip and Hand Position

C) Develop a firm grasp of basic patterns and techniques

- i) Start and stop musical sounds on a variety of beats (and sub-beats) in an appropriate musical manner and demonstrating an understanding of preparatory and other active gestures, as well as of passive gestures and their appropriate implementation
- ii) Conduct patterns in symmetric and asymmetric meters
- iii) Demonstrate an ability to transmit various styles (legato, marcato, and staccato)
- iv) Conduct meters in a variety of subdivisions, understanding the concepts of rebound, direction, resistance, and acceleration/deceleration
- v) Demonstrate the ability to make changes in meter, tempo, and style through appropriate gestural sequences
- vi) Demonstrate successful use of various releases and fermati
- vii) Develop and demonstrate basic left/right hand independence

D) Score Study Basics

- i) Basics of score mechanics and transposition
- ii) Basic musical terminology
- iii) Develop initial INDIVIDUAL methods for interpreting the musical score
- iv) Develop initial INDIVIDUAL methods for applying score study to gestural practice

Required Materials

Hunsberger, Donald and Ernst, Roy. The Art of Conducting, 2nd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1983.
Baton – details TBA in class
Folder with note paper and staff paper

Recommended Materials

Metronome for practice

Course Activities (in and out of class time)

- A) Assigned readings and exercises
- B) DAILY PRACTICE – this is a skill-development course, therefore daily practice is essential!
- C) Class demonstrations and discussions (collaborative)
- D) Written quizzes and final exam
- E) Conducting exams and final
- F) Evaluated videos of conducting execution
- G) Self-evaluation, peer feedback, and instructor feedback

Attendance Policy

This class depends heavily on participation. Students are expected to be on time and in attendance at every class. If you must miss a class due to illness, every effort must be made to make e-mail (preferred) or other contact in advance. In all cases of absence, students are required to speak with the instructor. Unexcused tardies and/or absences will have a severe impact upon your final grade. Two unexcused tardies constitute one unexcused absence. Two unexcused absences will lower your semester grade by one complete letter grade, and each successive unexcused absence after that will result in one letter grade reduction.

Grading

The class includes a series of three (3) conducting exams, along with the other components articulated below. In each of the four exams, students will be expected to demonstrate their mastery of the materials and skills covered. Each exam will be recorded on video and graded. Following each exam students will submit self-evaluations and schedule individual appointments with the instructor to review their performance. Grading will be according to the following criteria:

- A = Excellent: High quality, nearly-flawless, and creative work
- B = Very Good: High quality, creative work that includes minor flaws in more than one area
- C = Average: Good work that has strength, but lacks in several significant areas or has many minor flaws
- D = Below Average: Work that lacks in many significant areas
- F = Failing or Missing: Unexcused absences on exam dates will not be made up

A) Three (3) Conducting Exams	30% (3 x 10%)
B) Self-evaluations for conducting exams	10% (2 x 5%)
C) Daily and weekly assignments	15%
D) Online Quiz	5%
E) Written midterm exam	10%
F) Written final exam	15%
G) Conducting final	15%
Total:	<hr/> 100%

Semester Calendar (subject to change)

Tues., Aug. 27

- * Introduction / Syllabus
- * Musical & Non-Musical Roles of the Conductor
- * Exercise of 1

Assignments: Short essay, “Roles of the Conductor” (Canvas/WebCourses); Familiarize w/Movement Theories packet (PDF on WebCourses)

Thur., Aug. 29

- * Basic Posture, Stance & Pattern
- * The Horizontal, Vertical, and Sagittal Planes
- * The Preparatory Gesture, Down-Ictus v. Up-Ictus
- * Application of movement theories

Assignments: Practice “Exercise of 1” and other Mechanical Exercises

Tues., Sept. 3

- * Fundamental patterns (4, 3, 2)
- * Pattern as interconnected arcs
- * 1st rule of the rebound

Assignments: Practice Preparatory Gestures and Legato 4/4 & 3/4 Patterns

Thur., Sept. 5

- * The Preparatory Gesture and the Release

Assignments: Practice the “circle of preps” exercise and continue to practice mechanical exercises and patterns

Tues., Sept. 10

- * Introduction to varied styles

Assignments: Read “Style of Articulation” (pp. 12, 13) and “Conducting the Class” (p.14), practice Excerpts 1-1, 1-2, and 1-6 for class conducting

Thur., Sept. 12

- * Basic dynamics (pattern size)
- * Style, continued
- * In-Class conducting (excerpts 1-1, 1-2, and 1-6)

Assignments: Continued practice of excerpts for in-class conducting

Tues., Sept. 17

- * In-Class Ensemble Conducting

Assignments: Read “Score Study” (pp. 51-53)

Thur., Sept. 19

- * Introduction to the Fermata

Assignments: Practice Various Fermati & Fermata Excerpt

Tues., Sept. 24

- * Fermati, continued
- * Introduce Practice Excerpt for fermata practice

Assignments: ONLINE QUIZ (due 9/26 @10 AM)
Score Study, Marking, & Practice: Fermata Excerpt

Thur., Sept. 26

- * Introduce Excerpt for Conducting Exam #1
- * Basics of Score Study

Assignments: Score study/prep exercise

Tues., Oct. 1

- * Score Study, cont.
- * Prep for Conducting Exam #1

Thur., Oct. 3

- * **CONDUCTING EXAM #1**

Assignments: Read Chapter 4 (all)

Tues., Oct. 8

- * Introducing the left hand: dynamics & cues

Assignments: Practice “cueing circle” exercise

Thur., Oct. 10

- * Left hand and cueing, continued
- * In-Class Conducting Excerpts: 4-6, 4-7, 4-10

Assignments: Practice above excerpts for in-class conducting

Tues., Oct. 15

- * In-Class Conducting (chapter 4 excerpts above)

Thur., Oct. 17

- * Introduction to the Gesture of Syncopation

Assignments: Practice GoS Exercises

Tues., Oct. 22

- * In-Class Conducting (GoS Exercises)
- * Introduce excerpt for Conducting Exam #2

Assignments: Practice exam 2 excerpt

Thur., Oct. 24

- * In-Class Conducting & Exam Prep

Tues., Oct. 29

CONDUCTING EXAM #2

Thur., Oct. 31

- * Introducing the baton: Grip and Extension
- Assignments: Practice mechanics exercises, circle of preps, and style changes with baton; Read “Using the Baton” (pp. 30-35)

Tues., Nov. 5

- * Distribute study guide for written midterm exam
 - * Resistance: Economy of space, manipulating space and time, and compound patterns
 - * Tempo changes: both gradual and abrupt
 - * Style changes, and Subito Dynamic Changes
- Assignments: Review study guide for midterm exam and practice subito tempo, style, and dynamic changes

Thur., Nov. 7

- * Review for written midterm exam
- * Tempo, Style, and Dynamic Changes, cont.
- * Accents and the Preparation

Assignments: Study for Written Midterm Exam

Tues., Nov. 12

WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAM

Assignments: Read “Subdivision of Beats” (pp. 82, 83) and Chapter 8

Thur., Nov. 14

- * Compound Meters: Symmetrical and Asymmetrical
- * Subdivided Patterns
- * Simple Asymmetrical Patterns

Assignments: Practice simple and compound asymmetrical patterns (practice exercises on p.106)

Tues., Nov. 19

- * Compound Meters, cont. (practice ex. on p.106)
- * Subdivided Patterns

Assignments: Continued Practice: Subdivided Patterns, study excerpt 8-2 re: metric grouping decisions

Thur., Nov. 21

CONDUCTING EXAM #3: Asymmetrical and subdivided patterns

Study guide for written final will be provided

Tues., Nov. 26

- * Introduce and Analyze Excerpt for Final Conducting Exam

Assignments: Score Study/Markings and Practice Excerpt for Conducting Final

Thur., Nov. 28

NO CLASSES – HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Tues., Dec. 3

- * Review for written final
- * In-class conducting practice on Final Conducting Exam excerpt

Thur., Dec. 5

WRITTEN FINAL EXAM

Tues., Dec. 10 (subject to change)

FINAL CONDUCTING EXAM (10:00 AM – 12:50 PM): PAC M0150

The UCF Creed

Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance and decisions

Integrity I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.

Scholarship I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.

Community I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.

Creativity I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.

Excellence I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

Academic Integrity

UCF is committed to a policy of honesty in academic affairs. Conduct that comprises a breach of this policy may result in academic action and disciplinary action. Academic action affects student assignments, examinations or grades. Disciplinary action affects student enrollment status. Please review the behavior standards at <http://www.goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu>.

Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Video/Audio Acknowledgement

Due to the public nature of a performance ensemble such as this, members acknowledge that video and audio recordings will be made of their performances. Still photography may also be taken. It is understood that these materials (video/audio/photo) may be used by the Department of Music for publicity purposes in the form of websites, promotional posters, CDs and DVDs.

The contents of this syllabus are subject to modification by the professor due to unexpected circumstances. In such cases, the academic integrity of the course will be maintained.