CHORAL CONDUCTING II
MUP 456 Syllabus
Stephen F. Austin State University
School of Music
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Michael Murphy, Dr. Tamey Anglley (instrumental methods module)
Office: M126A
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 11:00-12:00 p.m., or by appointment
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Class Meeting Times: Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45 a.m.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
- Caplin, Thomas. The Learning Conductor. Norsk Musikforlag musikkforlagene.no
- Conducting baton (weighted - order through Premier baton) please wait to purchase
- Metronome
- Full length mirror
- Colored pencils
- Video recording device

CATALOG DESCRIPTION
Conducting II is a course designed to promote continuing refinement in the technical, expressive, and psychological aspects of conducting in order to advance an ensemble to the highest artistic level. Special attention will be given on gesture, score study, rehearsal preparation, and the affect of stance/body movement.

The choral conducting curriculum focuses on four major areas:
1. The development of basic competencies in choral conducting technique
2. The development of verbal and non-verbal communication in the rehearsal setting
3. The study of choral repertoire representative of various styles periods with emphasis on analysis and interpretation

COURSE OBJECTIVES
This course will guide the student in the exploration of pedagogical practices associated with choral conducting. Students will demonstrate:

1. A clear, efficient, and expressive conducting technique
2. A knowledge of representative choral works selected from the major style and periods and genres
3. An ability to interpret with stylistic understanding various forms and styles of choral compositions
4. An ability to independently study and prepare a score for rehearsal and performance
5. An ability to sequence learning and plan for rehearsal
6. An ability to express musical ideas through gesture; an ability to respond in rehearsal to the choir’s performance; and an ability to deliver clear, concise verbal directions
7. An ability to choose appropriate non-verbal cues to shape and develop choral sound
8. Observation and self-observation techniques
9. Error detection and prescriptive skills
10. A proficiency in conducting patterns and gestures (e.g. preparatory exercises, basic beat patterns, cueing and release gestures, fermatas, mixed meters, asymmetrical meters, gradual changes in tempo, dynamics, and articulation contrasts)
11. To broaden gesture vocabulary
12. Facility using each gesture with intent not habit
13. Become an active observer in your ensemble rehearsals (responding to conductors’ directives, thinking about conductors’ decisions, both gestural and musical, during rehearsal)

ASSESSMENT
Several types of assessment are used in this course:

1. Self-analysis and reflection form
2. Faculty analysis and feedback through observation
3. Demonstration of competency in textbook, projects, written assignments (score study), and other assigned readings

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES
Score study, listening, rehearsal planning, conducting competencies, preparation for class (readings), aural analysis and error detection competencies, self-evaluations of personal conducting video segments, teacher evaluation of demonstrated conducting and rehearsal skills.

Academic Work:
1. All work must be typed (12 font, Times New Roman, Double Spaced) with the exception of in-class assignments
2. To receive full credit, all assignments must be completed and submitted in class on the due date. Late work will be accepted no later than 5:00 p.m. on the next class meeting, and will carry a deduction of 10 points
3. Keep copies of all submitted and returned work
4. Attend class, have a fun and positive disposition

COURSE GRADING
Course grading is contingent upon 1) conducting/music competencies, 2) video self-reflections, 3) score studies
GRADING SCALE (before complaining about a grade, honestly ask yourself which grade you deserve based on the work you put in your weekly assignments, mid-term, and final semester grade)

90 – 100% = A

EXCELLENT = Considerable evidence of practice and preparation for class; demonstrated outstanding capacity to analyze and synthesize; outstanding grasp of conducting/music competencies; commitment to attendance is noteworthy

80 – 89% = B

GOOD = Evidence of practice and preparation for class; some evidence of critical capacity and analytical ability; to analyze and synthesize; reasonable understanding of conducting/music competencies; commitment to attendance. Evidence of familiarity with the literature.

70 – 79% = C

SATISFACTORY = Evidence of some understanding of conducting/music competencies, subject matter, practice, and preparation for class; benefitting from his/her university experience by attending class most of the time.

60 – 69% = D

MARGINAL = Evidence of minimally acceptable familiarity with conducting/music competencies and/or subject matter; minimum practice and preparation for class; minimum effort in attendance.

59% or lower = F

INADEQUATE= insufficient evidence of understanding of conducting/music competencies and/or subject matter, no commitment to attendance, consistent practice, and preparation; weakness in critical and analytical skills.

CLASS POLICIES

Attendance
There are no excused versus unexcused absences for this course. Each student is permitted two (2) absences to be used at the student’s discretion and may be used for any reason. Tardies/early departures accumulate and become absences (3 tardies/early departures = 1 absence). An absence does not mitigate the student’s responsibility for course content, work due or work assigned on the day of an absence. In the event of a chronic illness or family emergencies that demand excessive absences or missing work, it is recommended that a student seek a withdrawal from the course. NO incompletes will be given!
**Professional Behavior**
This includes preparedness for class, on-time attendance, participation in all discussions and/or activities.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

**Withheld Grades**
There will be no withheld grades given for this course unless there are extenuating circumstances. Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)
Calendar

* Instructor reserves the right to modify the schedule as needed

Conductors, 5 extra credit points are given if you attend the Chanticleer concert on January 19, 7:30 p.m. in Turner Auditorium. Bring me the program at the end of the concert.

**Week 1 (January 16, 18)**

**Tuesday (cancelled due to snow)**

Syllabus  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Thursday**  
Syllabus  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Week 2 (January 23, 25)**

**Tuesday**  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Thursday**  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Week 3 (January 30, February 1)**

**Tuesday**  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Thursday**  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Week 4 (February 6, 8)**

**Tuesday**  
Instrumental Methods Module

**Thursday**  
All conducting patterns, compound, and assymetrical, videos due)

Introduce conducting assignment 1

**Week 5 (February 13, 15)**
Tuesday
Group A (conducting assignment 1 for grade)

Thursday
No class (TMEA)

Week 6 (February 20, 22)

Tuesday
No class (A Cappella Tour)

Thursday
Group B (conducting assignment 1 for grade)

Week 7 (February 27, March 1)

Tuesday
Group C (conducting assignment 1 for grade)

Thursday
Introduce conducting assignment 2 (Shaffer, Murphy in California)

Week 8 (March 6, 8)

Tuesday
Group A (conducting assignment 2 for grade)

Thursday
Group B (conducting assignment 2 for grade)

Week 9 (March 13, 15)

Tuesday
Spring Break

Tuesday
Spring Break

Week 10 (March 20, 22)

Tuesday
Group C (conducting assignment 2 for grade)

All preparatory beats/breaths, cueing/eye contact, and fermatas videos due
Thursday
Introduce conducting assignment 3

Week 11 (March 27, 29)

Tuesday
Group A (conducting assignment 3 for grade)

Thursday
Group B (conducting assignment 3 for grade)

Week 12 (April 3, 5)

Tuesday
Group C (conducting assignment 3 for grade)

Thursday
Introduce Conducting Assignment 4

Week 13 (April 10, 12)

Tuesday
Group A (conducting assignment 4 for grade)

Thursday
Group B (conducting assignment 4 for grade)

Week 14 (April 17, 19)

Tuesday
Group C (conducting assignment 4 for grade)

Thursday
Make-up day

Week 15 (April 24, 26)

Tuesday
Introduce and practice chant (chironomy)

Thursday
Introduce and practice recitatives

Week 16 (May 1, 3)
Tuesday
Introduce Final Exam

Thursday
Practice final exam

**Final exam -**
Conduct final exam - Thursday, May 10 8:00-10:00 a.m.