TAMU-Commerce
Fundamentals of Conducting-Vocal
MUS 313-002
Fall 2012 Syllabus
MW 10:00-10:50
Music Building Rm: 105

Instructor
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Office hours by appointment and MWF 4:00-5:00, Tue. 9:00-10:00

Course Purpose
Intended for the undergraduate choral conductor, this course is directed towards developing a working knowledge of conducting gestures and non-verbal communication determined to be necessary for successful conducting and teaching choral music on the secondary level.

Music Department Mission Statement
The Music Department of Texas A&M University-Commerce promotes excellence in music through the rigorous study of music history, literature, theory, composition, pedagogy, and the preparation of music performance in applied study and ensembles to meet the highest standards of aesthetic expression.

University Accommodation Policy
Texas A&M University-Commerce is committed to providing access and reasonable accommodation in its services, programs, activities, education and employment for individuals with disabilities. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations will be made in accordance with the law. To request ADA accommodations, please contact Dr. Chris White 903.886.5327 or the Director of Disability Resources & Services, Hallady Student Services Building, Room 303D, (903) 886-5150.

University Behavior Policy
All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct.)

Outcome
1. Demonstrate a mastery of beginning and intermediate conducting techniques with an enabling posture, hand position, and clear indications of preparatory gestures, downbeats, patterns for symmetrical and asymmetrical meters, dynamics, cues, beat subdivisions, syncopation, and alterations of tempo (i.e. tempo rubato);
2. Demonstrate expressive intentions through both physical conducting and oral communication;
3. Demonstrate effective score analysis and score preparation;
4. Demonstrate an understanding of performance practice according to the various stylistic periods of composition;
5. Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills for error detection;
6. Demonstrate the necessary skills to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe solutions to musical problems in a rehearsal setting;
7. Demonstrate Solfegg competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications;

Materials
- Syllabus
- Deck of cards
- Choral Literature- to be purchased from JW Pepper at 817-589-5980 ext 2551.
  Ask for the A&M Commerce Conducting I packet. If you have problems ask for Anthony Carollo. It should cost around $25.00.

Required Memberships
All students enrolled in MUS 313-002 must be an active member of TMEA and ACDA. Membership forms may be accessed online. It is also expected of MUS 313-002 students to be an active participant in the TAMUC ACDA student chapter.

Class Policies
1. Attendance is imperative to success in the class. This course will be the basis of your teaching and every topic covered will imperative to you teaching. If you miss one class you will be behind and will have missed important information. It is up to the student to get missed work and materials from his/her peers. If you miss class when assigned to conduct, you will not be allowed to make up the missed conducting assignment and your grade will be affected. Your attendance is also important to your peers. Often you will be conducting each other. If you are not in class to sing for your classmates, their experience is diminished. If absenteeism becomes an issue, you will be asked to drop the class.
2. Grades will be weighted accordingly:
   - Prepared Conducting Projects 4 total 75 pts. each (300 total)
   - Flowchart and Score Marking Projects 4 total 75 pts. each (300 total)
   - Self-assessment of video 4 total 50 pts. each (200 total)
   - Final Conducting Project/Flowchart and Score Marking (200 total)
Total points 1000 div. 10 equal grade

Assignments
1. You will be expected to practice your conducting each day for at least 30 minutes. This is imperative to your development as a conductor. The music education degree offers you a limited amount of classroom experience to develop your conducting skills. Practice and an extended amount of repetition are essential to becoming a successful conductor.
2. Four of the conducting projects will require you to copy pre-determined gesture markings in your scores. Assessment of your conducting will be determined on how well these gestures are delivered as well as how well you communicate non-verbally through your conducting gesture.

3. The last conducting assignment will be assessed in a similar manner as the first four assignments; however, you will be expected to make gesture decisions on your own.

4. A conducting self-assessment will be completed after each conducting test. Every time you conduct you will be recorded. You will be expected to view your video and answer a set of given questions about your conducting. You should use this as a tool to improve your conducting gesture and communication. A total of 4 self-assessments should be turned in for a grade. The assessment will be due the class following the test day.

5. A flowchart and score marking assignment will be made for each of the four pieces you will conduct and the conducting final. This assignment will be due on the same day as the conducting test. Be prepared to turn in a Xerox copy of your marked score as well as a flowchart for the piece of music.

**Class Schedule**

*The Week of:*

**August 27**
- Conducting Patterns
- Planes
- Hinges
- Pattern of Size
- Laban Terms
  *Assign Laban exercises*

**Sept. 3**
- Conduct Laban exercises (no class on Mon. Holiday)

**Sept. 10**
- Prep Beats-Conducting Rounds
- Fermat-practice
- sub-divided beat
- Left hand
- hand independence
- cut offs
  *assign Adoramus Te (basic conducting)*

**Sept. 17**
- Practice Adoramus Te (Monday conduct for a partner, Wed. conduct for class)
  *assign Sicut Cervus mm. 1-11 (cues)*

**Sept. 24**
- Practice Sicut Cervus
- Compound meter
  *Assign God is Gone Up and Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day (changing and asymmetric meter)*
Oct. 1
Changing and asymmetric meter
Practice God is Gone Up and Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day
Oct. 8
Score marking
Assign Praise the Lord
Oct. 15
Practice Praise the Lord
Assign O Mistress Mine
Oct. 22
Test on Praise the Lord, flowchart and marked score due on Mon.
Practice O Mistress Mine
Oct. 29
Practice O Mistress Mine on Mon.
Test on O Mistress Mine and flowchart and marked score due on Wed.
Assign Set Me As A Seal
Nov. 5
Practice Set Me As A Seal
Nov. 12
Practice Set Me As A Seal on Mon.
Test Set Me As A Seal and flowchart and marked score due on Wed.
Assign Sicut Cervus all
Nov. 19
Practice Sicut Cervus all
(no class on Wed. Thanksgiving)
Assign Finale Ubi Caritas
Nov. 26
Practice Sicut Cervus Mon.
Test Sicut Cervus and flowchart and marked score due on Wed.
Dec. 3
Practice Finale: Ubi Caritas Mon.
Final Exam: Ubi Caritas Wed. and flowchart and marked score due