Graduate Conducting Classical  
Spring 2013 Syllabus  
MUS 552-100

Instructor

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Course Purpose

Intended for graduate students majoring in choral conducting, this course is directed towards developing an extensive knowledge of choral literature and conducting through extensive and thoughtful choral literature research, score preparation and gesture preparation. The ultimate objective includes the accurate, historically appropriate, and expressive interpretation of choral literature from the Classical Era.

Materials

Syllabus  
Scores:  
Missa Bervis K194  
Requiem  
Lord Nelson Mass  
Requiem  
Mozart Kalums A2685  
Cherubini Kalmus A2589

Suggested Books:  
Choral Music A Norton Historical Anthology- Robinson  
A Survey of Choral Music- Ulrich  
Choral Music History, Style and Performance Practice- Garretson  
The Choral Experience- Robinson  
A Manual for Writers- Turabian

Class Policies

1. Attendance is imperative to success in this course.  
2. The grade scale will be:  
   A= 100-90 All assignments completed on time and is clearly and tangibly superior- clean, neat, informative beyond course requirements, well-documented, well-planned and executed, showing evidence of careful and thoughtful innovation.
B= 89-80 Work that is completed and well-done- clean, informative to course requirements, documented, planned effectively, showing evidence of a desire to successfully present the course requirements.

C= 79-70 Work that is completed to course requirements but lacking in effective planning and execution, lacking evidence of a sustained record of work- work not consistent with graduate study.

D= 69-65 Work that is clearly beneath graduate standards, incomplete and ineffective in planning and execution- work not consistent with graduate study.

3. Grades will be weighted accordingly:
   - Listening Journal 4% (40 points)
   - Conducting Assignments 24% (240 points, 60 points x 4)
   - Class Presentations 10% (100 points)
   - Analysis Assignments 32% (320 points, 80 points x 4)
   - Final Exam 20% (200 points)
   - Choral file 5% (50 points)
   - Composer Report 5% (50 points)

**Assignments**

1. **Listening Journal**- Students are expected to listen actively to all music considered in this course and maintain a journal from their listening and organize that material for maximum effectiveness. All entries in this journal must be typed. That journal must include, at the very least, the following:
   a. Careful notation of the composition, composer, performers, and relevant recording information.
   b. Observations regarding the performance relating to the principals of performance practices, phrasing, articulations as well as other musical considerations, and sound achieved by the ensemble.
   c. Observations regarding future programming of the works in choruses to be conducted by the student to include performing forces, level of difficulty, and issues of interpretation.
   d. Reactions of the student to the specific performance and its effectiveness.
   e. Three or more recordings of each major work studied in this course.
   f. Additional works chosen from literature of the Classical Era. No less than 20 additional works should be included in the journal.

2. **Conducting**- Each student will conduct assigned movements of the literature to be studied. A grade will be giving for each piece studied based on the student’s preparedness, effectiveness of the gesture and improvement over the course of the study of the piece. Part of the grade will include at least one video critique of the students conducting of the piece.

3. **Analysis**- Analysis assignments are among the most pertinent elements of the course, for they provide a basis for interpretation and performance, the ultimate
goal of all involved in this study. A brief checklist for analysis includes the following:

a. Initial composition and or publication date. Circumstances surrounding the composition of the work (ie. commission, historical significance, first performance, other performances during the composer’s life etc…).

b. A brief biography of the composer including major jobs or positions, education, teachers, students, influences and a list of major choral repertoire.

c. Text- author, literal translation, liturgical use (if applicable), and structure.

d. Score- vocal and instrumental orchestration, available editions and location of primary sources.

e. Overall macro and micro formal structures including all tonal and rhythmic considerations at all levels that contributes to the musical unity of the piece (thematic material, musical symbolism, etc…).

f. An appropriate annotated bibliography. This bibliography should be detailed and should reflect significant library reference materials. The bibliography should be formatted following the Turabian Style Manual.

4. Final Exam- The student will choose one of the pieces studied over the course of the semester to conduct for the final exam. A brief oral exam testing the student’s knowledge of the score and analysis information will follow the conducting portion of the exam.

**Research Tools**


Class Schedule
Week of:
January 14th  Syllabus and outline course, First conducting assignment Mozart Missa Brevis K 194
January 21st  Conduct Mozart Missa Brevis, discuss analysis report and review of Laban technique
January 28th  Conduct Mozart Missa Brevis, discuss analysis report and review of Laban technique
February 4th  Conduct Mozart Missa Brevis, discuss analysis report and review of Laban technique
February 11th Conduct Mozart Requiem and discuss analysis report
February 18th Conduct Mozart Requiem and discuss analysis report
February 25th Conduct Mozart Requiem and discuss analysis report
March 4th    Conduct Haydn Lord Nelson Mass and discuss analysis report
March 11th   Spring Break
March 18th   Conduct Haydn Lord Nelson Mass and discuss analysis report
March 25th   Conduct Haydn Lord Nelson Mass and discuss analysis report
April 1st    Conduct Haydn Lord Nelson Mass and discuss analysis report
April 8th    Conduct Cherubini Requiem and discuss analysis report
April 15th   Conduct Cherubini Requiem and discuss analysis report
April 22nd   Conduct Cherubini Requiem and discuss analysis report
April 29th   Final