Texas A&M University – Commerce
Department of Music

Instrumental Conducting II
MUS 414.001
Spring 2015 Course Orientation

Phillip L. Clements, Instructor
Office: Music Building 193
Band Office Phone: (903) 886-5248
Office Hours: by appointment

Meeting Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m.
Location: Rehearsal Hall (Rm 113)
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Course Description and Assessment Outcome

This course is designed to develop a professional conducting approach with emphasis on techniques appropriate to instrumental conducting. Upon successful completion of the course and the conducting sequence (MUS 313 & 414) the student will be able to:

1) Demonstrate a mastery of beginning and intermediate conducting techniques with an enabling posture, a proper grip of the baton, 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) Exhibit a knowledge of transpositions and their use in score reading (Instrumental); 8) Demonstrate Solfeggio competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications (Vocal); 9) Critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of an ensemble rehearsal/performance.

Course Materials:

Texts:

1. *The Modern Conductor* – Green/Gibson 7th Edition
2. Conducting Baton – 12" or 14" only
3. Conducting Etudes and Materials as assigned

Prerequisites:

• Open to music majors only. Prerequisites: Successful completion of 1st semester instrumental conducting and all Ear Training and Theory Courses.

Attendance Policy

Unexcused absences in excess of TWO (2) will result in a lowering of the final earned grade at the rate of ONE (1) letter grade for each TWO (2) absences.

Example: 1-2 absences = No Effect
3-4 absences = Grade lowered by 1 letter grade
5-6 absences = Grade lowered by 2 letter grades
7+ absences = Grade of DF if with drawl requested (or) final grade of F

Note: Excused absences are defined as illness (with note from a physician), family emergency (with release from the Dean of Students), or a University related event or activity (with prior approval) Courtesy dictates calling in advance of an absence whenever possible.

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Daily Preparation	5%
Midterm Written Exam	10%
Conducting Practicums	45%
Assignments & ED Exam	20%
Final Conducting Exam	20%
Average	100%

Please Note: Assignments will be accepted late only in the event of an excused absence! Appropriate documentation verifying the excused absence should accompany the assignment. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Letter grades will be subtracted from the final average for excessive unexcused absences!

University Mission Statement:

Texas A&M University-Commerce provides a personal educational experience for a diverse community of life-long learners. Our purpose is to discover and disseminate knowledge for leadership and service in an interconnected and dynamic world. Our challenge is to nurture partnerships for the intellectual, cultural, social, and economic vitality of Texas and beyond.

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.

Students with Disabilities:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning

environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact: Dr. David Scott-Music Department Head (903) 886-5327 or Office of Student Disability Resources and Services-Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library Room 132 - Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 – Fax (903) 468-8148 StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct:

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). A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

In order to maintain a focused learning environment it is required that **all pagers and cellular phone be turned off or made inaudible during class.**

Objectives of Instrumental Conducting:

Since the art of conducting demands a spontaneous physical and mental response from the conductor, the ultimate objective of instrumental conducting will be the development of each student's ability to critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of the ensemble rehearsal/performance and to clearly demonstrate musical intentions through physical and oral communication.

Because the development of conducting skills and rehearsal techniques are, in fact, directly related to: (1) the innate and learned musical skills of the individual student, (2) the ability to apply listening skills in an analytical manner, (3) the students pedagogical knowledge of all instruments (winds, strings, percussion), (4) the ability to associate music history and style to performance practices, (5) the personality and confidence of each student to communicate these skills to the performers in the ensemble, each undergraduate conducting student will ultimately be faced with the challenge of developing individual weaknesses, the same as in the study of his/her applied instrument. It is assumed that all students have achieved competence in solfeggio, melodic/harmonic dictation, and a conversant knowledge of the performance fundamentals and practices of all instruments as taught in instrumental techniques and music education classes. Should any of these areas be deficient, the student will be expected to initiate individual practice and/or assistance to improve these essential skills.

MUS 414.001
Spring 2015

Date	Topic	Chapter	Assignment/Exam
1/21(W)	Intro to Course/Review of Basic Skills I (Posture, Grip, Planes, Preps, Meters, Styles)		
1/23(F)	Review of Basic Skills II (Left Hand) (Preps, Cues, Growth and Line)		
1/26(M)	Score Study		
1/28(W)	Score Study		
1/30(F)	Score Study		
1/31 (Sa)	**Rehearsal/Conducting Symposium**		
2/2 (M)	Practicum Practice		**Score Study Assign**
2/4 (W)	Practicum Practice		
2/6(F)	**Conducting Practicum 1**		
2/9(M)	**Conducting Practicum 1**		**Symposium Obs. Assign**
2/11(W)	**Conducting Practicum 1**		
2/13(F)	**NO CLASS: TMEA**		
2/16(M)	Expansion of Skills (Divided Meters & Asymmetrical Meters)	4&9	
2/18(W)	Expansion of Skills (Fractional Beat Prep & GOS)	5	**Self Eval. CP1**
2/20(W)	Expansion of Skills Review		
2/23(M)	Expansion of Skills (Melding)		
2/25(W)	Practicum Practice		
2/27(F)	Practicum Practice		
3/2(M)	Written Midterm		**WRITTEN EXAM**
3/4 (W)	Practicum Practice		
3/6(F)	Practicum Practice		
3/9(M)	**Conducting Practicum 2**		
3/11 (W)	**Conducting Practicum 2**		
3/13(F)	**Conducting Practicum 2**		
3/16-20	**SPRING BREAK**		

DATE	Topic	Chapter	**Assignment/Exam**
3/23(M)	Practicum Prep		
3/25(W)	Practicum Prep		
3/27(F)	Practicum Prep		**Self Eval. CP2**
3/30(M)	Practicum Prep		
4/1(W)	Practicum Prep		
4/3(F)	Practicum Prep		
4/6 (M)	**Conducting Practicum 3**		
4/8W)	**Conducting Practicum 3**		
4/10(F)	**Conducting Practicum 3**		
4/13(M)	Error Detection Skills		
4/15(W)	Error Detection Skills		
4/17(F)	Error Detection Skills		**Error Detection Assign**
4/20(M)	Error Detection Skills		
4/22(W)	Error Detection Skills		
4/24(F)	Error Detection Skills		
4/27(M)	Exam		**Error Detection Exam**
4/29(W)	Review Sessions		
5/1(F)	Review Sessions		**Self Eval. CP3**
5/4 (M)	Review Sessions		
5/6 (W)	Review Sessions		
5/8(F)	Final Class Meeting		

***YOUR FINAL CONDUCTING EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH THE ENSEMBLES DURING THE WEEK OF 5/4**

Note: This Daily schedule is subject to change; it is provided as an overview!