A&M Commerce
Fundamentals of Conducting-Vocal
MUS 313-002
Fall 2015 Syllabus
MW 10:00-10:50
Music Building Rm: 105

Instructor
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Office hours by appointment

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.)

Student Learning Outcomes
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. The Pepper number is 10544465. The packet price is $15.00 and the shipping is $4.00 If you have problems ask for Anthony Carollo.

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)

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
Week One
   Conducting Patterns 
   Planes 
   Hinges 
   Pattern of Size 
   Laban Terms 
   Assign Laban exercises

Week Two 
   Conduct Laban exercises (no class on Mon. Holiday)

Week Three
   Prep Beats-Conducting Rounds 
   Fermati-practice 
   sub-divided beat 
   Left hand 
   hand independence 
   cut offs 
   assign Adoramus Te (basic conducting)

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

Week Five
   Practice Sicut Cervus 
   Compound meter
   Assign God is Gone Up and Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day (changing and asymmetric meter)
Week Six
   Changing and asymmetric meter
   Practice God is Gone Up and Tomorrow Shall be my Dancing Day

Week Seven
   Score marking
   Assign Praise the Lord

Week Eight
   Practice Praise the Lord
   Assign O Mistress Mine

Week Nine
   Test on Praise the Lord, flowchart and marked score due on Mon.
   Practice O Mistress Mine

Week Ten
   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

Week Eleven
   Practice Set Me As A Seal

Week Twelve
   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

Week Thirteen
   Practice Sicut Cervus all
   (no class on Wed. Thanksgiving)
   Assign Finale Ubi Caritas

Week Fourteen
   Practice Sicut Cervus Mon.
   Test Sicut Cervus and flowchart and marked score due on Wed.

Week Fifteen
   Practice Finale: Ubi Caritas Mon.
   Final Exam: Ubi Caritas Wed. and flowchart and marked score due