

**A&M Commerce**  
**Undergraduate**  
**Minor Applied Choral Conducting**  
**MUS 351-100**  
Fall 2015 Syllabus  
TBA  
Music Building Rm: 105

Instructor

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Course Purpose

Intended for the undergraduate choral conductor, this course is directed towards developing a working knowledge of conducting gestures, non-verbal communication and rehearsal techniques 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 Outcome

1) Demonstrate a mastery of beginning and intermediate conducting techniques with an enabling posture 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 solfeg competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications
  - 8) Critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of an ensemble rehearsal/performance.

### Materials

Syllabus

Choral Literature:

Festival Te Deum Britten B&H 15656

Rejoice in the Lamb Britten B&H 15667

Missa Brevis K194 Kalums A2685

Other selected literature as needed.

Conducting Baton *\*Recommended- Newlandbatons.com- overall length 12", fiberglass shaft for durability, elliptical handle*

### Required Memberships

All students enrolled in MUS 352 must be an active member of TMEA and ACDA. Membership forms may be accessed online.

### Class Policies

1. Attendance is imperative to success in the class. You will be the lab choir for your peers in the class. If you are not present to sing for your peers, you are jeopardizing their experience. If you miss class when you are scheduled to conduct it will be a missed experience and a 0 grade. The rehearsal cannot be made up.
2. Grades will be weighted accordingly:
  - Conducting Preparation (flow charts and marked scores) 300 points (100 points per project)
  - Post conducting Evaluations 100 points (3 completed evaluations)
  - Conducting Tests 300 points (100 points per project)
  - Conducting Final 150 points
  - Conducting Final Preparation 150 points

## 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. Every time you conduct you will receive a recording to view for evaluation. You should use this as a tool to improve your conducting gesture, communication and rehearsal technique. You should turn in a written evaluation of each conducting test for a grade.
3. You will conduct three pieces this semester. For each piece you conduct you will prepare the following materials:
  - a. Conductor's marked score. Xerox your marked score and turn in the before your first rehearsal.
  - b. Conductor's analysis flowchart. Make enough copies of this flowchart to pass out to the class.
  - c. Conducting prep materials are due the second day of the conducting assignment.
4. The conducting final will be a fourth assigned piece that makes use of brass accompaniment. You should secure players for the final conducting test.
5. Before you conduct the conducting final you should turn in a Xeroxed marked score and flowchart of the assigned conducting piece.