

TAMU-Commerce
Graduate Applied Choral Conducting I
MUS 552

Summer 2016 Syllabus
MTWRF 12:30-3:30
TAMUC Metroplex Center

Instructor

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Course Purpose

Intended for the graduate choral conductor, this course is directed towards developing a working knowledge of conducting gestures, non-verbal communication determined to be necessary for successful conducting.

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.)

Materials

Syllabus
Choral Literature- to be distributed by Professor
Red and blue pencil, yellow highlighter and ruler

Class Policies

1. Attendance is imperative to success in the class. Every day missed is the equivalent to 3 regular classes. You will not be able to meet the minimum standard for success in this class if you miss even one day of class.
2. Grades will be weighted accordingly:
 - Conducting Preparation 6- 390 points (65 points each assignment)
 - Score Study Materials 5- 500 points (100 points each assignment)
 - Final Exam 110 points

Assignments

1. You will be expected to practice conducting each day. This is imperative to your development as a conductor. Practice and an extended amount of repetition are essential to becoming a successful conductor. Progress in the effectiveness and efficiency of the conducting gesture should be evident at each conducting opportunity.
2. Score Study Materials-
 - a. Conductor's marked score. A copy of your conductor's marked score should be turned in to the professor before each conducting opportunity.
 - b. Conductor's analysis flowchart. A copy of your conductor's analysis flowchart should be turned in to the professor and passed out to your classmates before each conducting opportunity.
3. Reading Assignments will be made. Students are expected to participate in the class discussion each class based on information in each reading assignment. The written final exam will be taken from the reading assignments and class discussions.

Class Schedule

12:30-2:00 and 2:10-3:30

Week One

- June 6th Syllabus, conducting assignments, basic conducting. Laban lecture.
READING- 1
Herford, Julius. *The Choral Conductor's Preparation of the Musical Score*. In *Choral Conducting Symposium*, ed. Harold A. Decker and Julius Herford, 2d ed. 112-148. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988.
- June 7th Continue Laban and Plane, hinges, pattern sizes, cues, releases, left hand exercises, fermata, mixed meter and score study
ASSIGNMENT 1- UNISON EXERCISES
READING- 2
Collins, Walter S. *The Choral Conductor and the Musicologist*. In *Choral Conducting Symposium*, ed. Harold A. Decker and Julius Herford, 2d ed. 112-148. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1988.
- June 8th Assignment 1- Unison Exercises.
Group work on Tallis *If Ye Love Me*
ASSIGNMENT 2- PREPARE CONDUCTING, SCORE MARKINGS AND FLOW CHART FOR TALLIS

- READING- 3
 Glenn, Carole, ed. *In Quest of Answers*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: 1991, pp. 108-128.
- June 9th Assignment 2- Conduct, present and discuss flow charts and score markings for Tallis
 ASSIGNMENT 3- PREPARE CONDUCTING, SCORE MARKINGS AND FLOW CHART FOR VICTORIA O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM
- June 10th No Conducting Class
 READING- 4
 Van Camp, Leonard. *A Practical Guide for Performing, Teaching and Singing Messiah*. Dayton, Ohio: The Lorenz Corporation, 1993.
 Moses, Don V., Robert W. Demaree, Jr. and Allen f. Ohmes. *Face to Face With An Orchestra*. New Jersey: 1987, pp. 45-47.
- Week Two**
- June 13th Assignment 3- Conduct, present and discuss flow charts and score markings for Victoria
 Discussion on conducting Recitative
 ASSIGNMENT 4- PREPARE CONDUCTING, SCORE MARKINGS AND FLOW CHART FOR ASSIGNED MESSIAH CHORUS
 ASSIGNMENT 5- PERPARE CONDUCTING FOR ASSIGNED RECIT. PREPARE TO SING ASSIGNED RECIT.
 READING- 5
 O’Neal, Melinda. “Coming to Terms with Historical Performance Practices.” In *Up Front! Becoming The Complete Choral Conductor*, ed. Guy Webb, 71-94. Boston, 1993.
- June 14th Assignment 4- Conduct, present and discuss flow charts and score markings for Messiah Assigned Choruses
 ASSIGNMENT 6- PREPARE CONDUCTING, SCORE MARKINGS AND FLOW CHART FOR ASSIGNED CHORUS FROM J.S. BACH CANTATA
 READING- 6
 Rifkin, Joshua. “Bach’s Chorus – A Preliminary Report.” *Musical Times* (November, 1982): 747-754.
 Marshall, Robert L. “Bach’s Chorus – A Preliminary Reply to Joshua Rifkin.” *Musical Times* (January, 1983): 19-23.
- June 15th Assignment 5- Conduct assigned recitative from Messiah
 Individual work on assigned chorus from Bach Cantata
- June 16th Assignment 6- Conduct, present and discuss flow charts and score markings for assigned chorus from J. S. Bach Cantata
 Final Exam