

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Department of Music

Instrumental Conducting II MUS 414.002 Spring 2024 Course Orientation

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

Meeting Time: MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Location: Band Rehearsal Hall (Rm 113)
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Course Description and Assessment Outcome

This course is designed as a continuation, development and expansion of MUS 313 with an emphasis on instrumental conducting. It 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.

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 student's 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.

Course Materials:

1. Course Pack for MUS 414 and 1" binder
2. Conducting Baton – 12" or 14" only (FROM Conducting 1 or approved by instructor)
3. Conducting Etudes and Materials as assigned
4. Account with Zoom for potential virtual attendance if needed
5. Account with Go-React for video submission: (Still active from Conducting I-Cost (\$39.99) was for the entire year)

Prerequisites:

Open to music majors only. Prerequisites: Successful completion of 1st semester instrumental conducting MUS 313 (C or above) and successful completion of the theory and ear-training pre-requisites as prescribed by the Department of Music for the student's degree plan.

Modality:

This course will be provided in a face-to-face format. In addition, there will be video tutorials available through D2L and most assignments will be submitted through Go-react and/or D2L.

COURSE ENGAGEMENT:

Engagement in the course is the student's responsibility. Students are expected to fully participate in the courses whether face-to-face or in a virtual modality. It is also imperative students and faculty communicate consistently and frequently. If, for any reason, you, the student, are not able to complete assignments or actively engage in the course, you **MUST** contact your instructor. Engagement and Participation in the course will be assessed per the individual instructor.

Attendance Policy

Since each member of the class relies on the other students to form the ensemble they conduct, all students are expected to be present at each class meeting and to participate fully in each class unless the absence falls under the excused absence policy.

Communication with the instructor of any absences is of the utmost importance. Excused absences are defined as illness, family emergency, or a University related event or activity (with prior approval). Courtesy dictates calling in advance of an absence whenever possible. Potential absences, other than those listed above, should be discussed directly with the

conductor at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible. Final classification of absences will at the sole discretion of the instructor.

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 D if withdrawal requested (or) final grade of F

Grading:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Daily Preparation	10%
Conducting Practicums	45%
Written Assignments	25%
Final Conducting Exam	20%
Average	100%

Please Note: Assignments will be accepted late only in the event of an excused absence with clear and timely communication! Appropriate documentation verifying the excused absence should accompany the assignment. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. *Note: If the situation warrants a shift to fully based virtual learning at any point, additional assignments may be added and grading percentages adjusted accordingly.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

Department of Music 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 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.

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

UNDERGRADUATE POLICIES

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

GRADUATE POLICIES

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesprocedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

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:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-
Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Room

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Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

A&M Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Student Conduct and Tenets of Common Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.

The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Current University Student Guidebook

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

Campus Concealed Carry Statement:

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun.

Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-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 sexualorientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Technology Requirements

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_suppport.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

Access and Navigation

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

Communication and Support

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

MUS 414
Spring 2024

Date	Topic	Assignment/Exam
1/10(W)	Intro to Course/Review of Basic Skills I (Posture, Grip, Laban, Planes, Preps, Meters, Styles)	
1/12(F)	Review of Basic Skills II (Left Hand) (Preps, Cues, Growth and Line, Fermatas)	
1/15(M)	HOLIDAY-no Class	
1/17(W)	Intro to Score Study	
1/19(F)	Score Study	
1/22 (M)	Score Study	
1/24(W)	Score Study	
1/26(F)	Score Study	
1/29 (M)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	Score Study Assign 1
1/31 (W)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	
2/2 (F)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	
2/5 (M)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	
2/7(W)	Expansion of Skills (Mixed Meters & Asymmetrical Meters)	
2/9 (F)	No Class-TMEA	
2/12(M)	Conducting Practicum 1	
2/14(W)	Conducting Practicum 1	
2/16(F)	Conducting Practicum 1	
2/19(M)	Expansion of Skills (GOS)	Self Eval. CP1
2/21 (W)	Expansion of Skills (Intro to Error Detection)	
2/23 (F)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	Score Study Assign 2
2/26 (M)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	
2/28 (W)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	Error Detection Assign 1
3/1 (F)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	
3/4 (M)	Conducting Practicum 2	
3/6 (W)	Conducting Practicum 2	
3/8 (F)	Conducting Practicum 2	
3/11-15	SPRING BREAK	

3/18 (M)	Practicum Round 3 Practice		Self Eval. CP2
3/20 (W)	Practicum Round 3 Practice		
3/22 (F)	Practicum Round 3 Practice		
3/25 (M)	Practicum Round 3 Practice		Error Detection Assign 2
3/27(W)	Conducting Practicum 3		
3/29 (F)	Conducting Practicum 3		
4/1 (M)	Conducting Practicum 3		
4/2 (Tues)	<i>Evening Error Detection Rehearsal Session (6:30-8:00 p.m.)</i>		
4/3 (W)	Expansion of Skills (Error Detection)		Self Eval. CP3
4/5 (F)	Error Detection Practice		
4/8(M)	Error Detection Practice		
4/10(W)	Error Detection Practice		
4/12(F)	Error Detection Practice		
4/15(M)	Conducting Practicum 4 (Error Detection)		Ped Score Study Assign
4/17W)	Conducting Practicum 4 (Error Detection)		
4/19(F)	Conducting Practicum 4 (Error Detection)		
4/22 (M)	Review Sessions for Final		
4/24 (W)	Review Sessions for Final		Self Eval. CP4
426(F)	Review Sessions for Final		
4/29 (M)	Final Class Meeting		

***YOUR FINAL CONDUCTING EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH ONE OF THE CONCERT ENSEMBLES DURING on 4/26, 4/29 or 4/30**

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