

**Texas A&M University – Commerce  
Department of Music**

**Applied Instruction in Instrumental Conducting  
Graduate Level  
MUS 552.200  
Spring 2024 Course Orientation**

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Meeting Time: Arranged  
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**Course Description and Assessment Outcome**

This course is designed for students to continue to develop a professional conducting approach at the graduate level with emphasis on techniques appropriate to instrumental conducting beyond the undergraduate level. Upon completion of the course, the student will demonstrate acquired scholarship in advanced conducting techniques, score analysis and preparation, with visual/aural discrimination skills and rehearsal techniques as necessary/possible. In addition, the student will have acquired a detailed understanding of the role of the conductor and windband within an historical perspective.

The applied instructor selects literature and plans lessons in a logical sequence specifically designed to prepare each student to meet the stated student learning outcomes. Thus, the literature and skills addressed in each lesson will vary according to each student's experience in performance repertoire and technical strengths and weaknesses. In practice, after assessing a student's skills and needs in the early lessons, the applied instructor often provides a more detailed overview of the semester's activities; however, this overview is specific to that student and the sequential activities are contingent upon that student's continued progress.

**Objectives of Applied Lessons in 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. This course may use non-ensemble modalities in terms of verbally and gesturally introducing repertoire to the instructor.

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:

### Required Materials:

#### **Year 1&2:**

1. Conducting Baton – 12” or 14” only
2. Conducting Etudes, Scores and Materials as assigned
3. *On Becoming a Conductor* –Frank L. Battisti 1<sup>st</sup> Edition
4. *The Artistry of TEACHING and MAKING Music*-Richard Floyd (GIA)
5. *Improving Intonation in Band and Orchestra Performance*-Robert J. Garofalo (Meredith Music) **OR** *A Guide to the Understanding and Correction of Intonation Problems*-Al “Corky” Fabrizio (Meredith Music)

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Year:**

1. *The Conductor's Challenge-Finding Expressive Meaning in the Score*-Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music)
2. *Note Grouping*-James Thurmond
3. *Great Music for Wind Band (A Guide to the Top 100 Works in Grades 4,5,6)*-Chad Nicholson (Meredith Music)

### Additional Recommended Materials:

#### CONDUCTING AND MUSICIANSHIP

1. *The Modern Conductor* – Green/Gibson 7<sup>th</sup> Edition
2. *Note Grouping*-James Thurmond

#### WIND BAND HISTORY AND LITERATURE

1. *Time and the winds* – Frederick Fennell
2. *The Winds of Change II (The New Millenium)*-Frank L. Battisti (Meredith Music)
3. *The American Wind Band-(A Cultural History)*-Richard K. Hansen
4. *Great Music for Wind Band (A Guide to the Top 100 Works in Grades 4,5,6)*-Chad Nicholson (Meredith Music)

#### REHEARSAL

1. *Rehearsing the Band* – John E. Williamson ed. Kenneth I. Neidig

**Modality:**

This course will be provided in a face-to-face format. In addition, most assignments and rehearsal recordings will be submitted through Go-react. (This will be discussed in the first lesson)

The following expectations are provided should virtual, synchronous class meetings be utilized for any reason:

- Students should maintain a professional appearance as would be expected in the classroom.
- Students attending synchronous classes should have their video turned on and be attentive throughout the class. Please position your camera in a well-lit professional environment.
- Virtual attendance will be taken for each class that is met virtually.

**Attendance Policy**

Since this is a graduate course which meets only once a week, students are expected to be present at each class meeting and to participate fully in each class regardless of modality 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.

**Grading:**

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

Daily Preparation and Lesson Assignments	70%
Additional Assignments	30%
<b>Average</b>	<b>100%</b>

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.

**Use of Electronic Devices:** In order to maintain a focused learning environment, it is required that **cellular phones be turned off or made inaudible during class**. This includes checking emails on any other device.

# **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](#) webpage and [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 162

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

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto: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](http://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\\_supp ort.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_supp ort.htm)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](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](mailto: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>