

Texas A&M University – Commerce

Department of Music

Fundamentals of Instrumental Conducting MUS 313.01E Fall 2024 Course Orientation

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Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Time: M,W,F 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Location: Room 113

Course Description and Student Learning Objectives

This course is designed to develop a professional conducting approach with emphasis on techniques appropriate to instrumental conducting. Upon completion of the course the student will: 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 at the beginning level; 4) Exhibit a knowledge of transpositions and their use in score reading. In addition, the conducting class will serve as the lab ensemble for the instrumental organization/rehearsal techniques course. This will allow students in the conducting course to preview and be exposed to the type of methods and strategies needed to teach in the ensemble setting.

Pre-requisites:

The student must have successfully completed the theory and ear-training pre-requisites as prescribed by the department of music for the student's degree plan.

Course Materials:

1. Conducting Baton – 12” or 14” only (as approved by the instructor)-Batons will be provided by Custom Batons, selected in class and paid for on-line. The estimated cost is \$40.00 including case. Batons may be paid for at “[Student Payments](#)” and using the School code **cb518**. Batons must be paid for by **Friday August 30th**.
2. Course Pack (est. \$17.50) available for pickup up in the band office-you may pay through Marketplace with a credit card or with cash or check in person. If you pay with Marketplace bring your receipt with you to pick up your course pack. The Marketplace link is: https://secure.touchnet.com/C20206_ustores/web/store_cat.jsp?STOREID=8&CATID=435
3. Conducting Etudes and Materials as assigned
4. Account with Go-React for video submission: (Cost is \$31.00 for the semester and can be paid after you are invited to the class through Go-React. Information will be given to you during first class period.
5. Account with Zoom for optional help sessions is recommended

Additional Information Concerning 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. 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 Objective Details

Semester I

- A. The student will demonstrate proper conducting posture.
- B. The student will demonstrate effective use of the baton.
- C. The student will effectively demonstrate the following techniques:
 - a. Laban conducting gestures
 - b. Malko conducting exercises
 - c. Preparatory gestures, downbeats, and releases
 - d. One, two, three, four, five and six patterns
 - e. Legato, tenuto, light staccato, full staccato, marcato, and non expressive styles
 - f. Dynamic indications
 - g. Entrances on beats other than one
 - h. Entrances on incomplete beats
 - i. Cueing
 - j. Accents, syncopations, and subito dynamic changes
 - k. Tempo alterations – ritard, accelerando, subito new tempo, tenuto, and fermata
 - l. Appropriate use of body and facial expression
- D. The student will evaluate conducting techniques by:
 - a. Observing and evaluating recorded conducting experiences
 - b. Observing and evaluating class members
- E. The student will demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills through the rehearsal of musical excerpts and assigned etudes and scores.
- F. The student will describe the role of the conductor in an historical perspective.
- G. The student will refine the basic skills of musicianship (rhythm, pitch, harmony, and form) and apply to the conducting process.
- H. The student will gain thorough knowledge of transpositions and their use in score reading through independent exercises and assignments.
- I. The student will continue to refine solfeggio competencies both in prepared and sight-reading applications while conducting for the development of physical control and mental independence. (This ability is an irreplaceable technique for score study.)

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 be 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: Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Daily Preparation	10 %
Term/Transposition Exams	15%
Daily Assignments	5 %
Conducting Practicums 1-5	55 %
Conducting Practicum 6 (Final)	15 %
Average	100%

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 and will be submitted in various formats depending upon the assignment (Go-React, D2L, In Person)-please listen closely for mode of assignment submission.

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.

Use of Electronic Devices:

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

School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at 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>

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

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 sexual orientation, 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_support.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>

FALL 2024 COURSE OUTLINE

NOTE: THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Week	DATE	Topic	Video Tutorials: (Watch in Advance of Class on D2L)	Assignment Due (Submission Method)
1	8/26	Intro to Course/What is a conductor?		
	8/28	The Art and Craft of Conducting/Baton Sizing		
	8/30	Non Verbal Communication (The Natural Gestures and Posture)	Video 1: Posture and Set-up	Baton Payments Due (Show Receipts in Class)
2	9/2	LABOR DAY-NO CLASS		
	9/4	Beginning Laban Gestures/Malko Approach	Video 2,3,4: Laban/Malko	
	9/6	Beginning Laban Gestures/Malko Approach		
3	9/9	The Baton, Prep, Downbeat, Release	Video 5,6,7: Grip, Prep, Downbeat, Release	Practicum Video 1 Due (Go-React)
	9/11	The Baton, Prep, Downbeat, Release		Pract Video 1 Self Eval (Go-React)
	9/13	Basic Conducting Patterns(3,4,2)	Video 8: Patterns 3/4/2	
4	9/16	Basic Conducting Patterns(3,4,2)		
	9/18	Psychological Conducting		Practicum Video 2 Due (Go-React)
	9/20	Conducting Musical Styles	Video 9: Styles	Pract Video 2 Self Eval (Go-React)
5	9/23	Conducting Musical Dynamics	Video 10: Dynamics and Dynamic Changes	
	9/25	Conducting Musical Styles & Dynamics-application		
	9/27	Transposition		Facial Expressions Video Due (Go-React)
6	9/30	Transposition		Practicum Video 3 Due (Go-React)
	10/2	Conducting Patterns(1,6,5)		Pract Video 3 Self Eval (Go-React), Trsp Assign Due (Turn in Paper in class)
	10/4	LAB ENSEMBLE		
7	10/7	Fermatas	Video 11: Patterns (1,6,5)	Term/Trsp Exam 1(In class)
	10/9	Fermatas	Video 12: Fermatas	
	10/11	LAB ENSEMBLE		
8	10/14	Practicum 4 (In class)		Practicum 4 (In class)
	10/16	Practicum 4 (In class)		Practicum 4 (In class)
	10/18	LAB ENSEMBLE		
9	10/21	Practicum 4 (In class)		Practicum 4 (In class)
	10/23	NO CLASS		
	10/25	LAB ENSEMBLE		
10	10/28	Cuing	Video 13: Cuing	Pract Video 4 Self Eval
	20/30	Cuing		
	11/2	LAB ENSEMBLE		
11	11/4	Tempo Changes	Video 14: Tempo Changes	Term/Trsp Exam 2 (In Class)
	11/6	Tempo Changes		
	11/8	LAB ENSEMBLE		
12	11/11	Practicum 5 (In Class)		Practicum 5 (In Class)
	11/13	Practicum 5 (In Class)		Practicum 5 (In Class)
	11/15	LAB ENSEMBLE		
13	11/18	Practicum 5 (In Class)		Practicum 5 (In Class)
	11/20	Practicum 6 Practice		Pract Video 5 Self Eval (Go-React)
	11/22	LAB ENSEMBLE		
14	11/25	Practicum 6 Practice		
	11/27	Practicum 6 Practice		
	11/29	NO CLASS-Thanksgiving		
15	12/2	Practicum 6 (In Class)		Practicum 6 (In Class)
	12/4	Practicum 6 (In Class)		Practicum 6 (In Class)
	12/6	Practicum 6 (In Class)		Practicum 6 (In Class)
16	12/9	Final Exam Week (No class meeting during final unless needed)		Pract Video 6 Self Eval (Go-React)