

Course syllabus & class timelines are subject to change at instructors' discretion.



Fundamentals of Instrumental Conducting MUS 313.01E COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

Hannah Weller

Meeting Times: MWF 10-10:50 am

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Office Hours: by appointment only

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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 ergonomic 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.
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.

Additionally, 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 School of Music for the student's degree plan.

Course Materials:

1. **Conducting Baton** – 14.5” or 16” only (as approved by the instructor) - Batons will be made available to “test-drive” in class. Batons must be purchased by Monday, September 15th, 2026 and paid for at the following link
[:https://www.custombatons.net/students](https://www.custombatons.net/students)

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2. **Course Pack: \$19.00** and available 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. An **account with Go-React** for video submission: (Cost is \$40.00 for the entire year and can be paid through the following link:
https://secure.touchnet.com/C20206_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1322 .) Information will be given to you during the first class period.
5. Your **applied instrument**.
6. **Smartphone** with adequate storage space (or recording device)
7. **Professional performance** dress on Quiz/Exam days.

Modality:

This course will be presented 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 that 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 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 (with a note from a physician)**, family emergency, or a University related event or activity (with prior approval. Courtesy dictates communication 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

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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

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

Daily Preparation/Attendance	10 %
Term/Transposition Exams	10 %
Written Assignments	10 %
Conducting Quizzes	40 %
Midterm/Final	30%
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.

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 students 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 addressing 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.

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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 tempo changes, 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
 - c. Observations of professional/university/public school conducted ensembles
- 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 a historical context.
- 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.)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATEMENTS

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School of Music Mission Statement:

The School of Music at East Texas A&M University 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:

East Texas A&M University 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.

ETAMU 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 East Texas A&M University 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

East Texas A&M University

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/>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

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The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

East Texas A&M University 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 East Texas A&M University have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements LMS Requirements:

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<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@etamu.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 ETAMU 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>

Health and Wellness

As an Institutional Member of the National Association of Schools of Music, East Texas State A&M University supports the Association's commitment to student health and wellness. The following web address provides links to information for resources related to physical and mental well-being, as well as assists in offering preventative measures that students can take to avoid serious and/or chronic conditions: [Musician Health and Safety - East Texas A&M University](#)

TEA Statement

This course content is aligned with the standards established by the Texas Education Code, covering areas such as Music, the Commissioner's Rules, Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities, Technology, and English Language Proficiency. To review these standards, please visit the Music Education Program D2L Shell and select "Standards and Objectives."

FUNDAMENTALS OF CONDUCTING: COURSE CALENDAR Fall 2025

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Week	Dates	Class Assignments/Materials
1	08/25 – 8/29	Mon 08/25: Syllabus & Movement Wed 08/27: Discuss Brené Brown Reading Movement, posture, ready position, ictus Fri 08/29: Discuss Brené Brown Reading Movement, posture, ready position, ictus
2	09/01 – 09/05	Mon 09/01: NO CLASS—Labor Day Wed: Movement, hinges, releases, fermatas, downbeats, pattern-building Fri: Preview Quiz #1 material, reinforce skills
3	09/08 – 09/12	Mon 09/08: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #1 Wed 09/10: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #1 Fri 09/12: CONDUCTING QUIZ #1 & Self-Eval (due 09/19)
4	09/15 – 09/19	Mon 09/15: Left hand independence & cues; reinforce skills Wed 09/17: Left hand independence & cues; reinforce skills Fri 09/19: Style discussion, dynamics & articulation
5	09/22 – 09/26	Mon 09/22: Rallentando & accelerando Wed 09/24: Reinforce above skills Fri 09/26: Preview Quiz #2 Material, reinforce skills
6	09/29 – 10/03	Mon 09/29: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #2 Wed 10/01: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #2 Fri 10/03: CONDUCTING QUIZ #2 & Self-Eval (due 10/10)
7	10/06 – 10/10	Mon 10/06: Introduction to Score Study, Midterm Parameters, Movement Wed 10/08: Continued pattern building and skill reinforcement Fri 10/10: Continued pattern building and skill reinforcement
8	10/13 – 10/17	Mon 10/13: Podium time for Midterm Wed 10/15: Podium time for Midterm Fri 10/17: MIDTERM & Self-Eval (due 10/24)
9	10/20 – 10/24	Mon 10/20: Introduction to Transposition & Terms Movement & skill reinforcement Wed 10/22: Transposition & Terms practice Movement & skill reinforcement Fri 10/24: Movement & skill reinforcement Movement & skill reinforcement
10	10/27 – 10/31	Mon 10/27: Movement & Complex Pattern Building Wed 10/29: Movement & Complex Pattern Building Fri 10/31: Preview Conducting Quiz #3 Material

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11	11/03 – 11/07	Mon 11/03: Podium time for Conducting Quiz #3 Wed 11/05: Podium time for Conducting Quiz #3 Fri 11/07: CONDUCTING QUIZ #3 & Self Eval (due 11/14)
12	11/10 – 11/14	Mon 11/10: Modified Class—All State UIL Marching Contest Wed 11/12: Transposition & Terms Practice Movement & reinforcement Fri 11/14: Transposition & Terms Practice Movement & reinforcement
13	11/17-11/21	Mon 11/17: Final Movement Competencies Wed 11/19: Final Movement Competencies Fri 11/21: Final Movement Competencies & Transposition & Terms Practice
14	11/24 – 11/28	Mon: TRANSPOSITION & TERMS EXAM Wed: Pass out Final Exam Materials Fri: NO CLASS - Thanksgiving
15	12/01 –12/05	Mon: Final Exam Prep Wed: Final Exam Prep Fri: Final Exam Prep
16	12/08	Mon: 10:30-12:30 FINAL EXAM & Self-Eval