

MUS 413—Choral Conducting (2 Credit Hours)
Course Syllabus: Spring 2026
Dr. James Bowyer

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Meets M-W-F from 10 AM to 11:50 AM in Music Building, Room 105 (the Choir Room)

Course Information

Catalog Description

Continuation, development, and expansion of Music 313 (Fundamentals of Conducting) with emphasis on choral conducting and issues related to the instruction and/or management of the choral ensemble.

Prerequisites

Acceptance into music teacher preparation program (EPP).

Outline of Major Content Areas

1. Applied conducting
2. Rehearsal techniques
3. Musicianship skills demonstrated through the use of solfège, rhythm syllables, hand signs, play-and-sing, and conducting gestures, to name a few.
4. Score study
5. Music literature
6. Achieving the desired choral sound through expressive conducting gestures

Institutional Effectiveness Student Learning Outcome (SLO) for Courses in Music Pedagogy

Graduating students will develop and apply effective pedagogical strategies in individual and/or classroom settings and at appropriate musical and developmental levels.

Course Specific Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and Means of Assessment

SLO 1 Students will 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).

Means of Assessment: Collective evaluations of video recordings, lab conducting exercises, conducting exams, observations and written critiques of rehearsals and performances

SLO 2 Students will demonstrate expressive intentions through both physical conducting and oral communication.

Means of Assessment: Collective evaluations of video recordings, lab conducting exercises, conducting exams

SLO 3 Students will demonstrate effective score analysis and score preparation. (Harmonic, formal, textual, pedagogical, and historical score analysis techniques will be used for the purpose of musical interpretation and rehearsal planning.)

Means of Assessment: Score analyses, rehearsal plans

- SLO 4** Students will demonstrate an understanding of performance practice according to the various stylistic periods of composition.
Means of Assessment: Collective evaluations of video recordings, lab conducting exercises, conducting exams, observations and written critiques of rehearsals and performances
- SLO 5** Students will demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills for error detection.
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises
- SLO 6** Students will demonstrate the necessary skills to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe solutions to musical problems in a rehearsal setting.
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises
- SLO 7** Students will demonstrate solfège competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications. (Additional tools will include, but are not limited to, solfège, rhythm syllables, hand signs, and singing on letter names.)
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises, conducting exams
- SLO 8** Students will critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of an ensemble rehearsal/performance.
Means of Assessment: Observations and written critiques of rehearsals and performances
- SLO 9** Students will define the five fundamental musicianship skills (audiation, musicality, intonation, vocal technique, and music literacy) and integrate them into teaching demonstrations and rehearsal plans.
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises, rehearsal plans, conducting exams, score analyses
- SLO 10** Students will articulate from memory the unison to part-singing sequence and be able to lead classroom exercises from the sequence.
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises, rehearsal plans, conducting exams, score analyses
- SLO 11** Students will vary the five properties of the beat (direction, speed, style, size, and shape) according to the desired musical sound.
Means of Assessment: Lab conducting exercises

Required Texts and Materials

Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volumes 1-5 (GIA Publications) [On reserve in library]

A score packet will be provided for you.

An additional score packet will also be required (purchased by student through JW Pepper)

Mollard 12"-14" Conductor's Baton

Additional Texts and Materials—On Reserve in Library

Dauids, Julia and Stephen LaTour. *Vocal Technique: A Guide for Conductors, Teachers, and Singers*. 2nd Edition. (Waveland Press). 2021. ISBN 13: 9781478640226

Emmons, Shirlee and Constance Chase. *Prescriptions for Choral Excellence*. (Oxford University Press, 2006). ISBN 13: 9780199884650

Goetze, Mary, Angela Broecker, and Ruth Boshkoff. *Educating Young Singers*, 2nd edition (GIA, 2016). ISBN 13: 9781622772018

Holt, Michele and James Jordan. *The School Choral Program: Philosophy, Planning, Organizing, and Teaching*. (GIA, 2008). Item #G-1780. ISBN 13: 9781579996796

Jordan, James. *Evoking Sound - The Choral Rehearsal: Techniques and Procedures, Volume One*. (GIA, 2007). ISBN 13: 9781579996734

Jordan, James. *Evoking Sound - The Choral Warm-Up: Method, Procedures, Planning, and Core Vocal Exercises*. (GIA, 2005). ISBN 13: 9781579993894

Phillips, Kenneth H. *Directing the Choral Music Program*. 2nd Edition. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015). ISBN 13: 9780199371952

Teaching Music Through Performance in Choir, Volumes 1-5 (GIA Publications)

Ulrich, Homer. *A Survey of Choral Music*. (Cengage, 1973) ISBN 13: 9780155848634

Assessment

Evaluation and Grading

The semester grade for this course will be determined based on reading responses, projects and assignments, and teaching demonstrations, to name a few. The following percentages are approximate and may be modified according to the needs of the curriculum.

50%	Conducting (e.g., In-Class Conducting Demonstrations, Musicianship Skills)
30%	Written Assignments (e.g., Score Analyses, Rehearsal Plans)
10%	Field Observations
10%	Attendance, Participation, and Work Ethic

Assignments in Detail

Conducting

Applied performance assessments of new conducting skills will occur regularly. These In-Class Conducting Assessments will be observed in a "round robin" fashion. Bring a device to video record your conducting. You must be musically prepared to conduct:

- Sing any part at sight using text, neutral syllable, and solfège.
- Speak any part on rhythm syllables.
- "Play-and-sing" any two parts of the score: Sing one part on solfège and play any other part on the piano (simplifying the piano is allowed).

Written Assignments

After you have conducted in class, review your video later by the end of that week. Log onto D2L and complete an assessment of your conducting based on your observations and on feedback that you received in class. A rubric for your assessments will be provided. These are to be completed before Midnight on the Friday of weeks that you conduct. You will also be required to formally analyze a number of choral pieces. Instructions for doing so will be discussed in course readings and in class discussions.

Field Experience

The completion of 10 observation hours in middle and/or high school choral classrooms is required. You must set up and complete these observations with area teachers *on your own*. These can be in person or via Zoom. Here are the required materials:

TK20

For all current, and upcoming courses that relate to state licensure, you are required to purchase Tk20. This documents that you have met certain criteria for the University to recommend you for licensure. The cost is \$139+tax / fee (corrected) for a one-time subscription that you will use in all future education courses. Link: <https://tamuc.tk20.com/campustoolshighered/start.do>

Music Education D2L Shell

Upon enrollment in MUS 222, all music education majors have access to a D2L shell titled Music Education Program. In this shell you can keep track of your non-curricular program requirements (instructions for completing the Application for Admission to the Educator Preparation Program, Field Based Experience (FBE) Packet, Application for Student Teaching, etc.). This shell also contains music education policies, procedures and other important information.

Field Based Experience (FBE) Packet

The FBE packet is available in the Music Education D2L Shell. This document describes the requirements and processes to complete the field based experience hours in each class where hours are required.

Following your observations, students are required to complete an observation report.

Attendance, Participation, and Work Ethic

Assessment for attendance and participation will be derived in a holistic manner, taking into consideration student absences, tardies, in-class discussions and activities, and work ethic. Deficiencies in any of these areas will result in a reduction in total points. Generally speaking, each unexcused absence will result in a reduction in the final grade of one full letter. (Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.)

- Attend all classes.
- Arrive to class on time with course materials.
- Notify instructor in advance of missing class.

- Be in class for the entirety of the scheduled session. Do not leave class unless absolutely necessary, and do not leave before the end of the period.
- Complete all course assignments on time. Late work is not accepted, though pre-arranged extensions may be granted.
- Listen and respond to others.
- Avoid disruptions or distractions in the classroom, including the use of electronic devices.
- Contribute constructively to class discussions and activities.

School of Music and East Texas A&M University Procedures and Policies

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 [13.99.99.R0.01 Class Attendance](#) .

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance when possible. Changes to syllabus and assignment schedule are inevitable.

School of Music Engagement Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all assigned components of this course. Active participation includes being present, engaged, responsive, cooperative, respectful, and professional. It may also include providing feedback, asking questions, and being supportive of class members and faculty during instruction time.

Student Expectations

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes. Notification for excused absence must be received in advance. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor. Students are expected to actively participate in all classes by coming prepared and with all assigned materials. This course is a graduate research course. Bibliographical material, repertoire, library resources, applied techniques, as well as research techniques applicable to graduate study in music specific to flute/woodwind pedagogy will be surveyed and discussed. Be prepared to spend a significant amount of time doing research and review of materials outside of class. Students are expected to demonstrate skills in pedagogy through their observation, analysis, discussion and feedback of the performances of other students. Students are expected to gain skills in this area by the observation of teaching techniques in their own private lessons and through the observation of teaching techniques of other students in studio class, guest artist classes on campus, and optional conference attendance or optional observations of master teachers online. Students will need to submit teaching videos and acquire a waiver from the student(s) in their videos.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes. It is the individual student's responsibility to notify the instructor of a legitimate absence in advance. It is also the individual student's responsibility to acquire any missed notes and assignments from other students and/or the instructor. For each unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be dropped by one (1) letter grade. Three tardies equal once absence.

Late Assignments or Work

No late work will be accepted.

Texas Education Code – Music Education

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."

Musician Health and Safety

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](#)

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: [13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty](#)
[13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty](#)

AI Use Policy

East Texas A&M University acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course. Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism). Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

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

Learning Management System (LMS) in D2L: 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: [LMS Requirements Link](#)
- LMS Browser Support: [D2L Brightspace Support](#)
- Zoom Video Conferencing Tool: [Zoom Video Conferencing Tool Link](#)

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 D2L, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:
<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

East Texas A&M University Supports Students' Mental Health

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 <https://www.etamu.edu/counseling-center/>

Students with Disabilities—ADA Statement

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, contact the Office of Student Disability Services at 903-886-5150, 903-886—5835; email studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu; online at [Student Disability Services](#) or in-person in Room 162 of the Velma K. Waters Library.

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. (See current Student Guidebook.)

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in East Texas A&M University 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 East A&M Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to [34.06.02.R1 Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus and/or](#) consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.