



Fundamentals of Instrumental Conducting

MUS 313.03E & MUS 313.01E

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2026

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Meeting Times: MWF 10:00-10:50 am

Office: School of Music 193 (DeLuca) & 194 (Guillen)

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** – We will be using Custom Batons by Chris Blount! Batons will be made available to “test-drive” in class. Batons must be purchased and paid for at the following link: [:https://www.custombatons.net/students](https://www.custombatons.net/students) (Do **not** order one before we try them in class!)
2. **Course Pack: \$16.50** 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). 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. **Three tardies equal one unexcused absence.**

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

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

Daily Preparation/Attendance	10 %
Term/Transposition Exams	20 %
Conducting Quizzes & Self Evals	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 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 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.

Course Objective Details

- 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 & Malko conducting gestures
 - b. Preparatory gestures, downbeats, and releases
 - c. One, two, three, four, five and six patterns
 - d. Legato, tenuto, light staccato, full staccato, marcato, and non-expressive styles
 - e. Dynamic indications
 - f. Entrances on beats other than one
 - g. Entrances on incomplete beats
 - h. Cueing
 - i. Accents, syncopations, and subito dynamic changes
 - j. Tempo alterations – ritard, accelerando, subito tempo changes, tenuto, and fermata
 - k. 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

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:

<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 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>

CWID AND PASSWORD

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.

TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ISSUES

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, an ETAMU campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

INTERACTION WITH INSTRUCTOR STATEMENT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your instructor. Correspondence will always be through university email (your “myLeo” mail) and announcements in myLeo online (D2L). You will not RECEIVE email through D2L, so be sure to check your ETAMU email for communication. Students are encouraged to check university email daily.

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EMAILS WITH INSTRUCTOR:

- Course name and subject in the subject line
- Salutation (Good afternoon, Dr. Jackson)
- Proper email etiquette (no “text” emails – use proper grammar and punctuation)
- Student name and CWID after the body of the email (possibly add to student signature on email)

COURSE AND SCHOOL OF MUSIC PROCEDURES/POLICIES

(NOTE: The wording in this section is strongly encouraged but not required. It may be used as-is or paraphrased.)

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.

Attendance, Engagement and Civility Policy

ATTENDANCE

EXAMPLE 1: Regular attendance, punctuality, and active participation in all scheduled classes, rehearsals, lessons, and performances are essential to student success and are expected of all students in the School of Music. Absences may result in grade penalties, loss of participation or performance opportunities, dismissal from the course or ensemble, or failure of the course. By enrolling, students agree to uphold these standards of professional responsibility and engagement.

EXAMPLE 2: It is expected that music students model professional and courteous behavior by attending every class and arriving to class on time. Unexcused absences are unprofessional and they will not be acceptable when you are a professional musician or educator in the field.

Excused absences include illness with a doctor's note, jury duty, or the death of an immediate family member. If you must miss class for any reason, including not being registered and last-minute issues such as sudden illness or car trouble (for commuters only), you are expected to communicate with the instructor via text or email before class begins.

Absent students will, by default, earn a grade of zero for that day's work until proof of excused absence is provided. Failure to provide a physician's note, jury summons, or other proof confirming the legitimacy of the absence will result in the classification of that absence as unexcused. Students who are absent are expected to carefully review the lecture PowerPoint in D2L so that they do not fall behind. Due to its performance nature, face-to face class attendance cannot be made up.

The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who misses more than () in-person, face-to-face classes, regardless of the reason. If absences are accumulated after the drop date, the student will receive a failing grade.

This cushion is intended for students who experience a profound hardship. Outside of legitimate excused absences that are communicated with the instructor, all students are expected to attend every class.

Students are expected to remain fully engaged in class activities during class time. Any student who disengages from class (texts, checks social media, works on assignments for other classes) will be asked to leave the classroom and an unexcused absence will be recorded in D2L.

ENGAGEMENT

Students are expected to remain fully engaged in class activities during class time. Any student who disengages from class (texts, checks social media, works on assignments for other classes) will be asked to leave the classroom and an unexcused absence will be recorded in D2L.

CIVILITY

All students are expected to 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 Student Guidebook: <https://www.etamu.edu/student-code-of-conduct>. The tenets apply to all communication to the instructor and your classmates.

Demonstrate commitment to your course of study by contributing thoughtfully to class discussions, turning in assignments in a timely manner, being prompt and dependable, supporting your peers and the instructor, and accepting critiques graciously. Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances.

Cell phones should be turned off before class begins and concealed from view throughout the duration of the class period. Please take care of any necessities (food, drink, restroom) before coming to class so that we may proceed without interruption. If you need to bring a bottle of water, please take care keep the cap secured. Dispose of all food and chewing gum before class begins. No food, chewing gum, or drinks other than water are allowed in the classroom.

Please be careful with our classroom materials and use them only when instructed. Failure to bring class materials will result in a loss of 50 points.

Be open-minded about other's opinions and thoughts, encouraging them to stretch their boundaries and take risks, and listen attentively to their performances. Failure to conform to these expectations of behavior will result in a lowered grade. Engagement/Performance grades will be given according to the instructor's discretion:

- An A will be earned by the student who arrives early with all materials, exhibits superior attentiveness, is fully prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a leader and role model to others.
- A B will be earned by the student who exhibits excellent attentiveness, is prepared for class, participates with enthusiasm, and is a valued asset to others.
- A C will be earned by the student who exhibits average attentiveness, preparation, and class participation.
- A D will be earned by the student who exhibits little attentiveness, preparation, and participation.
- An F will be earned by the student who exhibits no attentiveness, preparation, or participation. This student will be instructed to drop the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is a fundamental expectation of this course and of the School of Music. Students are expected to complete all assignments honestly and to submit work that represents their own knowledge, effort, and creativity. Any form of academic dishonesty undermines the learning process and is inconsistent with the ethical standards expected of university students and future music professionals.

Students found responsible for cheating, plagiarism, or other forms of academic misconduct will receive a grade penalty, which may include a zero on the assignment or examination, a failing grade for the course, or other

sanctions at the instructor's discretion, consistent with university policy. Incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Dean of Students and may result in additional disciplinary action.

Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Using unauthorized materials, devices, or assistance during quizzes, tests, or examinations.
- Receiving unauthorized help on assignments, papers, projects, or other coursework.
- Obtaining or distributing examination materials without permission.
- Submitting the same paper or project for more than one course without the prior approval of all instructors involved.
- Collaborating on work intended to be completed individually.
- Any action intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

- Presenting another person's words, ideas, research, or creative work as your own without proper acknowledgment.
- Using direct quotations or paraphrased material without appropriate citation.
- Submitting work prepared wholly or in part by another individual or commercial service.
- Failing to properly credit sources, whether published, unpublished, or obtained through digital media.

Unless explicitly authorized by the instructor, all submitted work must be created by the student(s) enrolled in the course. Students may not hire another person or company to complete coursework on their behalf.

Students who are uncertain whether a particular resource or type of assistance is permitted should consult the instructor before submitting the assignment.

For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

- [Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.03](#)
- [Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10](#)
- [Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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.

CLASSROOM ATTIRE

As future music professionals, students are encouraged to view their appearance as part of their professional identity. Developing habits of appropriate dress demonstrates respect for classmates, faculty, guest artists, and the profession, and helps prepare students for the expectations they will encounter in educational and professional settings.

Students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for a university learning environment and reflects the professional standards of the School of Music. Clothing should be clean, neat, and suitable for participating in class

activities, including movement-based exercises, presentations, and guest lectures.

Because students often work in close proximity during rehearsals, classes, and performances, attention to personal hygiene is an important aspect of professionalism and respect for others.

University and School of Music Information

UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENT

East Texas A&M University nurtures and educates for success through access to academic, research, and service programs of high quality.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC MISSION STATEMENT

The East Texas A&M University School of Music 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.

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, please contact:

Student Disability Services
East Texas A&M University
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@etamu.edu
Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

Please note that faculty members are unable to make accommodations unless they have received a letter from SDRS.

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.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY STATEMENT

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 ETAMU 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.

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all East Texas A&M University campuses.

Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

EAST TEXAS A&M SUPPORTS STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH – COUNSELING SERVICES

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M University, 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/>.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code or go to https://studentsupport.telushealth.com/us/about#download_app to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.

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: <https://www.etamu.edu/music/musician-health-and-safety/>

CONDUCTING I - COURSE CALENDAR

Week	Dates	Class Activities/Materials
0	8/21	Fri 08/21: Syllabus & Movement, Assign Readings
1	08/24 – 8/28	Mon 08/24: Discuss Brené Brown Reading Movement, posture, ready position, ictus Wed 08/26: Discuss Brené Brown Reading Movement, posture, ready position, ictus Fri 08/28: Movement, hinges, releases, fermatas, downbeats, pattern-building
2	08/31 – 09/04	Mon 08/31: Movement, hinges, releases, fermatas, downbeats, pattern-building Wed 09/02: Preview Quiz #1 material, reinforce skills Fri 09/04: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #1
3	09/07 – 09/11	Mon 09/07: LABOR DAY - No Class Wed 09/09: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #1 Fri 09/11: CONDUCTING QUIZ #1 & Self-Eval (due 09/18)
4	09/14 – 09/18	Mon 09/14: Left hand independence & cues; reinforce skills Wed 09/16: Left hand independence & cues; reinforce skills Fri 09/18: Style discussion, dynamics & articulation
5	09/21 – 09/25	Mon 09/21: Rallentando & accelerando Wed 09/23: Reinforce above skills Fri 09/25: Preview Quiz #2 Material, reinforce skills
6	09/28 – 10/02	Mon 09/28: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #2 Wed 09/30: Reinforce skills, podium time for Quiz #2 Fri 10/02: CONDUCTING QUIZ #2 & Self-Eval (due 10/09)
7	10/05 – 10/09	Mon 10/05: Introduction to Score Study, Midterm Parameters, Movement Wed 10/07: Continued pattern building and skill reinforcement Fri 10/09: FALL BREAK - No Class
8	10/12 – 10/16	Mon 10/12: Podium time for Midterm Wed 10/14: Podium time for Midterm Fri 10/16: MIDTERM & Self-Eval (due 10/23)
9	10/19 – 10/23	Mon 10/19: Wizard Day - AKA: BATON DAY! Wed 10/21: Transposition & Terms practice Movement & skill reinforcement Fri 10/23: Movement & skill reinforcement Movement & skill reinforcement
10	10/26 – 10/31	Mon 10/26: Movement & Complex Pattern Building Wed 10/28: Movement & Complex Pattern Building Fri 10/30: Preview Conducting Quiz #3 Material
11	11/02 – 11/06	Mon 11/02: Podium time for Conducting Quiz #3 Wed 11/04: Podium time for Conducting Quiz #3 Fri 11/06: CONDUCTING QUIZ #3 & Self Eval (due 11/13)

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

12	11/09 – 11/13	Mon 11/09: Transposition & Terms Practice Movement & reinforcement Wed 11/11: Transposition & Terms Practice Movement & reinforcement Fri 11/13: Transposition & Terms Practice Movement & reinforcement
13	11/16-11/20	Mon 11/16: Final Movement Competencies Wed 11/18: Transposition & Terms Practice Fri 11/20: TRANSPOSITION & TERMS EXAM
14	11/23 – 11/27	Mon 11/23: Pass out Final Exam Materials Wed 11/25: Final Exam Prep Fri 11/27: Thanksgiving Break - No Class
15	11/30 –12/04	Mon 11/30: Final Exam Prep Wed 12/2: Final Exam Prep Fri 12/4: Final Exam Prep
16	12/07	Mon: 10:30am-12:30pm FINAL EXAM & Final Self Eval (due 12/11)