

# Texas A&M University – Commerce

## Department of Music

### Instrumental Conducting II MUS 414.002 Spring 2020 Course Orientation

Phillip L. Clements, Instructor  
Office: Music Building 193  
Band Office Phone: (903) 886-5248  
Office Hours: by appointment

Meeting Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 a.m.  
Location: Band Rehearsal Hall  
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### Course Description and Assessment Outcome

This course is designed to develop a professional conducting approach with emphasis on techniques appropriate to instrumental conducting. Upon successful completion of the course and the conducting sequence (MUS 313 & 414) the student will be able to:

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; 4) Demonstrate an understanding of performance practice according to the various stylistic periods of composition; 5) Demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills for error detection; 6) Demonstrate the necessary skills to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe solutions to musical problems in a rehearsal setting; 7) Exhibit a knowledge of transpositions and their use in score reading (Instrumental); 8) Demonstrate Solfeggio competency both in prepared and sight-reading applications (Vocal); 9) Critically evaluate technical and musical criteria of an ensemble rehearsal/performance.

### Course Materials:

Texts:

1. Course Pack and 1” binder
2. Conducting Baton – 12” or 14” only (FROM Conducting 1 or approved by instructor)
3. Conducting Etudes and Materials as assigned

### Prerequisites:

- Open to music majors only. Prerequisites: Successful completion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester instrumental conducting (C or above).

## Attendance Policy

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 DF if withdrawal is requested (or) final grade of F

Note: Excused absences are defined as illness (with note from a physician), family emergency (with release from the Dean of Students), or a University related event or activity (with prior approval) Courtesy dictates calling in advance of an absence whenever possible.

## Grading:

**Grades will be determined as follows:**

Daily Preparation	10%
Conducting Practicums	50%
Written Assignments	20%
Final Conducting Exam	20%
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. Letter grades will be subtracted from the final average for excessive unexcused absences!

## University and Music Department Mission Statements:

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.

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.

## 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: Dr. David Scott-Music Department Head (903) 886-5327 or Office of Student Disability Resources and Services-Texas A&M University-Commerce, Gee Library Room 132 - Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835 – Fax (903) 468-8148 [StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu)

### **Conduct:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). A&M-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.

Campus Concealed Carry-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 (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). 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.

In order to maintain a focused learning environment it is required that **cellular phones be turned off or made inaudible during class.**

### **Objectives of 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.

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 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.

**MUS 414.001**  
**Spring 2020**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment/Exam</b>
1/13(M)	Intro to Course/Review of Basic Skills I (Posture, Grip, Laban, Planes, Preps, Meters, Styles)	
1/15(W)	Review of Basic Skills II (Left Hand) (Preps, Cues, Growth and Line)	
1/17(F)	Intro to Score Study	
1/20(M)	HOLIDAY-no Class	
1/22(W)	Score Study	
1/24(F)	Score Study	
1/27 (M)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	
1/29(W)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	
1/31(F)	Practicum Round 1 Practice	<b>Score Study Assign 1</b>
2/3 (M)	<b>Conducting Practicum 1</b>	
2/5 (W)	<b>Conducting Practicum 1</b>	
2/7 (F)	<b>Conducting Practicum 1</b>	
2/10 M)	Expansion of Skills (Divided Meters & Asymmetrical Meters)	
2/12(W)	Expansion of Skills (Fractional Beat Prep & GOS)	<b>Self Eval. CP1</b>
2/14 (F)	<b>NO CLASS: TMEA</b>	
2/17(M)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	
2/19(W)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	
2/21(F)	Practicum Round 2 Practice	<b>Score Study Assign 2</b>
2/24(M)	<b>Conducting Practicum 2</b>	
2/26 (W)	<b>Conducting Practicum 2</b>	
2/28(F)	<b>Conducting Practicum 2</b>	
3/2(M)	Practicum Round 3 Practice	
3/4 (W)	Practicum Round 3 Practice	
3/6 (F)	Practicum Round 3 Practice	<b>Self Eval. CP2</b>
<b>3/9-13</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	

<u>DATE</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Assignment/Exam</u>
3/16 (M)	<b>Conducting Practicum 3</b>		
3/18(W)	<b>Conducting Practicum 3</b>		
3/20 (F)	<b>Conducting Practicum 3</b>		
3/23(M)	Expansion of Skills (Error Detection)		<b>Self Eval. CP3</b>
3/25(W)	Expansion of Skills (Error Detection)		
3/27(F)	Expansion of Skills (Error Detection)		
3/30 (M)	Error Detection Practice		
4/1W)	Error Detection Practice		<b>Error Detection Assign</b>
4/3(F)	Guest Music Education Lecture		
4/6 (M)	Error Detection Practice		
4/8(W)	Error Detection Practice		
4/10(F)	Practicum Round 4 Practice (Error Detection)		
4/13(M)	Practicum Round 4 Practice (Error Detection)		
4/15(W)	Practicum Round 4 Practice (Error Detection)		
4/17(F)	Practicum Round 4 Practice (Error Detection)		
4/20(M)	<b>Conducting Practicum 4</b> (Error Detection)		
4/22W)	<b>Conducting Practicum 4</b> (Error Detection)		
4/24(F)	<b>Conducting Practicum 4</b> (Error Detection)		
4/27 (M)	Review Sessions for Final		<b>Self Eval. CP4</b>
4/29 (W)	Review Sessions for Final		
5/1 (F)	Final Class Meeting		

**\*YOUR FINAL CONDUCTING EXAM WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH THE WIND ENSEMBLE DURING THE WEEK OF 4/27**

Note: This Daily schedule is subject to change; it is provided as an overview!