

Texas A&M University - Commerce
Department of Music
Fundamentals of Instrumental Conducting
MUS 313.002
Fall 2020 Course Orientation

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Meeting Time: M,W,F 10:00-10:50 a.m.
Location: Room 156
Office Hours: By appointment

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 – 14.5” or 16” only (as approved by the instructor) - Batons may only be ordered through the following link AFTER being sized in class: https://newlandbatons.com/class_orders/tamuc/tamuc.htm. Batons must be ordered by Thursday August 27th.
2. Course Pack-available in the music office
3. Conducting Etudes and Materials as assigned
4. An account with Zoom for virtual attendance
5. An account with Go-React for video submission: (Cost is \$39.99 for the entire year.) Information will be given to you during the first class period.

Modality:

This course will be provided a dual-modality or hybrid format with students attending face-to-face and virtually. The students will be split into two even-numbered groups (A,B) and should follow the attendance schedule as put forth in the course outline to be handed out on the first day of class.

If at any point a student is uncomfortable with face-to-face instruction they should communicate directly with the instructor regarding optional accommodations.

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 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 at the sole discretion of the conductor.

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)

Grading:

Grades will be determined on the basis of:

Daily Preparation	5 %
Term/Transposition Exams	20 %
Written Assignments	10 %
Conducting Practicums 1-5	50 %
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.

Music Stands

All woodwind and brass students must provide their own portable music stand for each rehearsal, order to provide maximum student safety. Percussionists will utilize university-owned music stands, which will be sanitized between rehearsals. Students needing to order a portable music stand may do so through the band office or on the TAMUC Marketplace after the first class day. Details will be discussed and recommendations will be made at the first class meeting.

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.

Music Department Mission Statement:

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:

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
Email: 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. This includes checking texts/emails on any other device (smart watch, etc.).**

University COVID-19 Protocols:

A&M-Commerce requires the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories. Exceptions may be made by faculty where warranted. Faculty have management over their classrooms. Students not using face-coverings can be required to leave class. Repetitive refusal to comply can be reported to the Office of Students' Rights and Responsibilities as a violation of the student Code of Conduct.

Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

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
 - 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 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.)