

University of South Alabama

Fundamentals of Conducting, Fall 2008

Course: Fundamentals of Conducting, MUT 361
MWF, 10:10-11:00 am, LPAC 1230

Instructor: Dr. Laura Moore

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office hours posted at LPAC 1103, or by appointment

Required Text: Phillips, Kenneth. Basic Techniques of Conducting. Oxford
University Press, 1997.

Materials: Baton, approx. 12-14"
Metronome

Course Description:

This offering is intended as a beginning conducting class for future conductors, music educators, and performers.

Course Objectives:

The main purpose of this course is to bring students to a satisfactory level of competency with regard to:

1. clear and efficient communication of basic musical ideas through physical gesture.
2. appropriate posture, use of the baton, and the open hand.
3. development of the basic conducting patterns and gestures.
4. development of non-dominant hand independence.
5. control of tempi and volume.
6. basic non-verbal communication through body and facial expression.
7. career choices through a variety of field experiences and observations.

Course Requirements

Evaluation:

1. Conducting - six biweekly conducting exams (10% each) on assigned excerpts
2. Quizzes - two quizzes (totaling 5%) including terminology on tempo, dynamics and character, clefs and score markings
3. Observations – three observations (totaling 10%). Two observations are to be done in your area (either instrumental or choral) and one observation in the other area at recommended schools. These experiences in the schools are valuable in assisting the student in making a wise career choice.
4. Preparation and participation in class (5%). This may include very brief class etudes.
5. One final exam (20%)
6. Make-up exams and assignments should be pre-arranged prior to an absence.

Grade Scale:

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 0-59%

Attendance:

This course is intensive in that it demands practice of physical skills that can only be learned through regular repetition. It is in essence a laboratory experience, and as such, consistent attendance and prepared participation is essential. Each student will conduct and/or perform every day. It is expected that students will be prepared to sing or play any assigned material in addition to conducting that same material. Lack of preparation or delayed completion of assignments will result in a lowered grade.

Only excused absences, such as a death in the family, physical illness, or a school-sponsored trip, will be considered for make-up assignments, quizzes, exams, or late work. These absences must be accompanied by a written document for verification. Without written documentation, LATE WORK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the professor and provide certification from Disability Services (Office of Special Student Services). The Office of Special Student Services is located in the Student Center, Room 270. The phone number is 460-7212.

This syllabus and course calendar is subject to modification. Students will be given adequate notification in writing prior to any changes in course requirements and/or expectations.

Course Calendar MUT 361, Fall 2008

Week 1 – August 18

- Introduction to class and conducting
- Posture; frame; vertical and horizontal planes; arm and open hand position; ictus; preparatory beat

Week 2 – August 25

- 4 pattern; placement of beats; plane/amplitude/breadth; size of pattern; releases; review tempo terminology
- Example in class – 3.1 and 3.2
- Learn/practice - 3.4 (Austrian Hymn)
- *Need metronome*

Week 3 – September 1

- QUIZ – tempo terminology
- legato/staccato/marcato articulation; changing tempi
- Example in class – 4.1, 4.2, 4.3
- Review 3.4

Week 4 – September 8

- CONDUCTING – 3.4 (Austrian Hymn)
- 3 and 2 pattern; articulations using wrist, forearm, whole arm; Daily Dozen; dynamics terminology and character terminology
- Examples in class – 6.2 and 6.4 (My Country)
- Learn/practice - 6.5 (Ode to Joy)
- *Need baton*

Week 5 – September 15

- QUIZ – dynamics and character terminology
- dynamic changes; holding baton
- Examples in class – 6.4 and 6.5 with baton

Week 6 – September 22

- CONDUCTING – 6.4 (My Country) and 6.5 (Ode to Joy) - at least one with baton
- 1 pattern, staccato and legato; release on 1; release on 2, prep for pick-up beat
- Examples in class – 10.1
- Learn/practice – 10.3 (Sing We), 10.4 (Chorale St. Antonii), and 11.3 (Erlaube mir)

Week 7 – September 29

- Review 10.3, 10.4, 11.3
- CONDUCTING – 10.3 (Sing We), 10.4 (Chorale St. Antonii), and 11.3 (Erlaube mir)

Week 8 – October 6

- functions of left hand – mirroring; showing dynamics and changes; independence of left hand; sustaining gestures; coordinating left and right hands
- Learn/practice – 17.2 (O Beautiful) and 17.3 (Break forth)

Week 9 – October 13

- CONDUCTING – 17.2 (O Beautiful) and 17.3 (Break forth)
- Score study and markings
- Review left hand gestures
- *from list provided by professor, choose 2 pieces for final exam*

Week 10 – October 20

- subdivisions; cues; soprano/alto/tenor clefs
- Learn/practice – 20.1 (Surely he hath borne)

Week 11 – October 27

- Composer's Intent and Listener's Response – programming
- Entrances on incomplete beats (partial-beat preps)
- Examples in class – 22.4, 22.5, 22.6
- CONDUCTING – 20.1 (Surely he hath borne)

Week 12 – November 3

- fermatas, compound meters
- Example in class – 24.4
- Learn/practice – 24.5 (Silent Night)

Week 13 – November 10

- asymmetric meters (5 and 7); changing meters
- CONDUCTING – 24.5 (Silent Night)

Week 14 – November 17

- accents; tempo changes (tenuto/ritardando); section cues; gesture of syncopation
- Learn/practice – 27.5 (Handsome Butcher)

Week 15 – November 24 and December 1

- Review

Final Exam - Friday, December 5, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm