

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 3311 Conducting, Fall 2023

Course day and time: **9:05-10:00MWF** in FAC 1221

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 566-7091--email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Office: FAC 2023--Office hours: 10-12 MWF, 10-12, 1-2 TR or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 3311 is the required conducting course for all course plans leading to a bachelors degree in music. MUSI 3311 is an introductory course on conducting, and focuses on stick technique, the baton's place in space, and audiation of basic melodies while conducting. In a sense, this introductory course centers on the theory or physical aspects of conducting.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

12" or 14" Baton with wood shaft--your choice of color; No fiberglass batons or cork handles allowed

Undergraduate Conducting textbook (See CANVAS→MUSI 3311→MODULES)

White poster board, at least 24" x 24" in size; needed at second week of class

cellphone that can record at least 15 minutes consecutive video @1080p (mirroring OFF)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS (not required):

Green: *The Modern Conductor*, 7th edition

Labuta: *Basic Conducting Techniques*, 5th edition;

Phillips: *Basic Techniques of Conducting*

ATTENDANCE:

You are counted as present in class, if:

*you arrive no later than 9:15, you have your baton, and you are participating in class

(which means not wearing headphones or earbuds and not looking at your cellphone during class).

Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed **three** absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the fourth, will lower the semester average by two points. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the three allowed absences. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT-Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled AND the required two week advance notice in writing has been given) do not count towards the three allowed absences. Vacations, trips not associated with a UT Tyler class, airplane schedules, etc. are not reasons to miss class, and work missed for these reasons will be given a grade of zero. If a student has nine or more absences, **regardless of the reason**, s/he must drop the course or receive a grade no higher than a D.

HOWEVER, if you are legitimately sick, DO NOT COME TO CLASS. You must then go to the university clinic or a doctor.

After an absence for illness, I will not allow you to come back to class unless I see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

Students without a baton are not allowed to conduct in class.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Hats or caps of any kind, pajamas, or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class.

Any recording--video and/or audio--of any portion of lectures without express prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily triggered allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings, because students must sit for a long time near each other. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones to check messages during class.

*Since the class requires a variety of movement exercises, one classes will require the student to lie on the floor. Plan accordingly, bring casual clothes for these days and a blanket or towel; refer to the course outline.

Resources for Students

CANVAS>>>MUSI 3311>>>UT Tyler Syllabus Module>>>Student Resources

CANVAS>>>MUSI 3311>>>UT Tyler Syllabus Module>>>University Policies and Information

GRADING:

The final grade is determined by:

25% Three quizzes (one written and two conducting)

15% written midterm exam

15% conducting mid-term exam

5% gesture diary--typed; due last day of class

20%written final exam

20% conducting final exam (tentatively 8:00AM)

GRADING SCALE: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D

Student Outcomes By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

- *articulate both verbally and non-verbally the basic gesture syntax that conductors use;
- *demonstrate basic proficiencies of conducting with a baton in 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 patterns;
- *demonstrate both orally and visually differences in legato, mezzo, and staccato patterns
- *demonstrate basic left hand/right hand independence;
- *develop reasonable command of X and Y axes in order to communicate meter and gesture to a performer;
- *develop a repertoire of cuing and fermatas consistent with 21st century usage;

Conducting: Tentative Course Outline

August 21	Introduction to course; class 1–history of conducting
August 23	The role of the conductor, past and present, the “triad”
August 25	Basic principles of movement (on floor; dress accordingly)
August 28	Basic principles of movement, continued
August 30	Standing and presentation; physical warm-up; X and Y axes (have poster board!)
September 1	X and Y axes with left and right hand
September 4	<i>Labor Day–No Class</i>
September 6	The baton and its presentation; preparatory gesture and downbeat
September 8	Conducting in 2; <i>ictus</i> and <i>takt</i>
September 11	Quiz One (written)–basic functions
September 13	Conducting in 2 and in 4; music examples
September 15	Conducting in 3; music examples; singing exercises I
September 18	Legato and staccato; music examples
September 20	Examples of incomplete measures; review of 2, 3, 4 patterns; conducting with left hand
September 22	Conducting in 5 and 6; music examples
September 25	Tenuto gesture; review of patterns
September 27	Gesture of Syncopation; Quiz 2–singing exercises I (videotaped)
September 29	“Dead” gesture; gesture analysis; incomplete measures
October 2	Conducting in “one to the bar”; Review of gestures and conducting vocabulary
October 4	Video: <i>The Art of Conducting</i> (on youtube.com; students must watch outside class)
October 6	Video discussion; phrase analysis; review for midterm exam
October 9	Mid-term Exam (written and conducting)
October 11	Development of left hand independence
October 13	LH shaping exercises (crescendo/diminuendo exercises)
October 16	In-class practice with LH shaping exercises
October 18	“Supermeter” concept
October 20	Introduction to Cues (left hand)
October 23	Cue exercises with simple patterns (2, 3, 4)
October 25	In-class practice: LH crescendo/diminuendo exercises Quiz 3–LH shaping (video)
October 27	LH independence exercises (circle, square, triangle) for final exam
October 30	Introduction to the three types of fermatas
November 1	Fermata type I practice; music examples
November 3	Fermata type II practice; music examples
November 6	fermata exercises type III
November 8	Asymmetric meters: fast 5 and 7
November 10	Music examples with fermatas for gesture analysis
November 13	Hypermeter; fractional meter
November 15	Review of irregular meter; metric modulation
November 17	Conducting idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical
November 18-26	<i>No Class–Thanksgiving Holiday</i>
November 27	Idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Early Romantic, Late Romantic Conducting final exam gestures assigned
November 29	Video: <i>The Art of Conducting</i> , part 2 (on youtube.com; students watch outside class)
December 1	Review for Final Exam; gesture diary due

Final Exam (tentative): Monday December 4, 8:00am-10:00pm conducting video link due by 4:00p.m.
late videos penalized 10% per hour