

Course Syllabus

BASIC CONDUCTING

COURSE# MUED591 (2 CREDITS)

Instructor: TERRA Caplan Stage – M 10:00-11:50am

Keith W. Hodgson
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Basic Conducting involves a study of fundamental conducting skills and techniques. It is a two-credit course meeting once a week for two hours. This course is part of the fulfillment for the Music Education Minor, and is a prerequisite course for MUED530 - Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques: Elementary and Middle School Ensembles; and MUED531- Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques: High School and Community Ensembles.

Textbook and Materials

- **Text: Conducting - A Hands-On Approach: Book & CD.....Anthony Maiello & Jack Bullock**
- Score packets *(supplied)*
- Handouts *(supplied)*
- Conducting Baton **Mollard S14-RW Mollard 14 Baton Rosewood/White**
- Pencils & Highlighters



Program Objectives

- Students have completed the necessary coursework to become certified music educators in a public and/or private school system
- Students understand the essential tenets of music education
- Students understand the importance of standards--based education, quality design and assessment strategies, and foundational teaching methods
- Students demonstrate an understanding and application of the four domains of professional practice through quality teaching and musicianship
- Students demonstrate the application of pedagogical and methodological means to teach music and employ effective teaching methods

Student Learning Outcomes

- **Conducting Patterns** To instruct each student in the correct beat patterns for various simple, compound, complex and changing meters, including subdivisions.
- **Conducting Techniques** To instruct each student in proper conducting techniques, including preparatory and upbeats, attacks and releases, beat negation and beat melding, cuing, legato-marcato-staccato styles, variety of tempi (including accelerando, ritardando, fermata), dynamic control, independence and interdependence of both hands, nuances, body language, facial expression.
- **Score Reading** 1. To instruct each student in the various types of scores, including 2 to 4 part choral, reduced score format for elementary-junior high-senior high school band, full band scores, orchestra, jazz band, and special instrumental scores. 2. To teach each student the proper method of score marking.
- **Rehearsal Principles** To prepare each student in proper rehearsal procedures and methods for all types and levels of musicians ranging from elementary school band and chorus to professional orchestras, choruses, and studio work.
- **Professionalism** To prepare each student for the professional world, creating an atmosphere of respect for the conductor, the student, and peers.

- **Ensemble set-up and Preparation**

1. To instruct each student in the proper set-up for various ensembles including chorus, band, jazz band, orchestra, and other types of musical ensembles.
2. To instruct each student in the necessary preparation for holding a successful rehearsal, including organization of music, folders, and advanced knowledge and preparation of musical scores.

Class Format

Students will have several opportunities to conduct the class through live readings of various styles of music and recorded material, both chorally and instrumentally. There will be weekly conducting and reading assignments, as well as score preparations. Each student's conducting will be critiqued frequently by both the instructor and the class. Each student will be videotaped at least three times during the semester, in order to allow for self-evaluation. Students will also be evaluated on written quizzes and tests, based on class lectures and textbook readings.

Quizzes

Students will also be evaluated on written quizzes and tests, based on class lectures and textbook readings. Quizzes shall include but not be limited to:

1. Foreign language terms dealing with tempos and other common musical terminology
2. Foreign language terms of orchestral instruments and their transpositions

Information literacy and research

Each student is expected to research each piece of music that will be conducted in this course. It is important for the student to understand the composer's intentions and also research any historical background of the composer and piece. Each student will write a small paper dealing with a video/film of a specific conductor, and commenting on his/her conducting style. Specific assignments will be made.

Assessment and Grading

Each student's grade will be based on the following criteria:

- In class participation – 40%
- Submitted video assignments – 20%
- Final conducting exam – 20%
- Quizzes and information literacy– 10%
- Score preparation/marking, and class assignments – 10%

The student is allowed only one absence for the semester. Excessive absences or tardiness will affect the final grade for this course. Two tardies constitute an absence. If a student shows up to class more than 20 minutes late, it will be counted as an absence. Students may not leave class early unless written notice is given to the instructor one day in advance. There is no differentiation made between excused and unexcused absences. An absence is an absence.

Academic Integrity Policy: Academic Integrity is a commitment to the core values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility and their role in ensuring the health and vigor of the academic and creative community. Please note that students are encouraged to contact their instructors and/or the University librarians for guidance in maintaining academic integrity in their work.

Violations of Academic Integrity: Violations of academic integrity are considered to be acts of academic dishonesty and include but are not limited to cheating, plagiarizing, fabricating, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating academic dishonesty, and are subject to the policies and procedures noted here and within the course catalogue, including the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Judicial System. Please note that lack of knowledge of citations procedures, for example, is an unacceptable explanation for plagiarism, as is having studied together to produce remarkably similar papers or creative works submitted separately by two students.

Educational Accessibility: Students who believe they are eligible for course accommodations under the ADA or Section 504 or have had accommodations or modifications in the past, should contact the Office of Educational Accessibility at 215-717-6616 or access@uarts.edu to arrange for appropriate accommodations and to obtain an accommodations letter, if applicable. Faculty can provide course accommodations/modifications only after receipt of an approved accommodations letter from the Office of Educational Accessibility. Accommodation letters can be provided to qualified students at any time during the semester, but grades earned before the letter is received by the faculty cannot be changed.

Official Basic Needs Clause

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries, accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or living in a safe and stable environment – and believes this may affect their performance in this course – is urged to contact Student Services in Gershman Hall (room 311). Students also can email studentaffairs@uarts.edu. Student Services will provide students with any available resources.

Official Wellness Statement

UArts students have access to free, confidential wellness services via the Counseling Center and Health Services offices. For counseling services, please visit walk-in hours (Monday - Friday, 11:00am - 1:00pm) in Gershman Hall (room 307). Counseling provides trained staff interested in supporting you through your academic journey as artists. Visit our website – www.uarts.edu/counseling – for more information. Students with medical concerns or in need of help from the campus nurse should visit Health Services in Gershman Hall (room 306), call 215-717-6652, or email healthservices@uarts.edu. To learn more about medical services, please visit our website: www.uarts.edu/health. We are here to help.

Cell Phone usage is strictly prohibited during class/ensemble time. Cell phones should be silenced and stowed and never visible during class time. Any student who does not follow this policy will receive one warning, followed by a full two-grade deduction (i.e. A becomes a C) and possible dismissal from the class/ensemble. This policy also applies to other electronic devices, unless required by the instructor.