

Sam Houston State University
School of Music
Course Syllabus
Fall 2007

Conducting II
CID 5605, MUS 424, 2 Credits
MWF 9:00 – 9:50 AM, Room 201
Office Hours: 1:00 – 3:00 M-F. (and by appointment)

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I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The study and application of advanced conducting technique as applied to instrumental and choral ensembles with emphasis on the development of analytical and interpretative skills. Prerequisite: MUS 226 or consent of instructor. Satisfies a component for Music Education.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

(To be determined after first class meeting and communicated at next class meeting time.)

III. STUDENT SCOPE AND OUTCOME OF THE COURSE

Development and demonstration of a professional conducting approach with emphasis on techniques appropriate to wind, orchestral, and choral conducting. Demonstration of acquired scholarship in intermediate and advanced conducting techniques, score analysis and preparation, development of visual/aural discrimination skills, the role of the conductor in historical perspective, and an exhibition of advanced musicianship.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Attendance: Attendance is expected for all scheduled classes. The nature of the course requires active participation and interaction among all class members at all times. As a general rule, students are not excused from **any** class under **any** circumstances. The following rules regarding attendance apply: Make-ups for missed exams are granted only for excused (official university) absences. Graduating seniors who need to schedule an early final should inform the instructor early in the semester.

I. GRADING

Student members will be graded on the basis of performance, musicianship, effort, cooperation, and attendance/participation, as appraised by the Director. Perfect attendance at all class meetings is expected of all members and is considered the norm. Because it is impossible to make up the material covered during class/conducting assignments, absences, which result in lack of participation for that day, must result in a lower final semester grade.

Students who have authorized absences or have made other satisfactory explanation of absence to the Director will not be penalized. Excused absences are those resulting from illness, death in the family, or other family emergencies. Only the Director may authorize an excused absence. Courtesy would dictate the necessity of reporting these absences in advance of the class to be missed. Please email or call in advance.

***Lack of Participation will affect the semester grade as follows:**

- 1 Grade of A (One Sanctioned Miss)
- 2 Grade of B
- 3 Grade of C
- 4 Grade of D
- 5 + No credit for the course; grade of "F"

Tardies will accumulate to absences at the rate of 2 tardies equaling 1 absence.

“Sanctioned Miss” - You will note that you may miss once and still maintain an "A" if needed. Please use this wisely.

For example:

- a) Visiting Artist-Master Class scheduled during rehearsal.
- b) Educational Field Trips or other class trips.

*** NON – PARTICIPATION WILL GREATLY AFFECT YOUR GRADE.**

A tardy will be counted non-participation.

* There will be no make up opportunities for the conducting experiences. Other make ups will be determined on a case by case basis by the instructor.

B. Weekly Assignments: Weekly conducting assignments will be given and graded. Each student will be expected to conduct the assigned musical excerpts in class with the class members as the ensemble. Missed assignments may not be made up. In addition, weekly reading assignments and term definitions will be given and evaluated through class discussion and quizzes.

C. Final Written Exam: Wednesday, December 12, 2007 (8:00 AM – 10:00 AM).

The final exam will cover all topics and terms covered in the course.

D. Final Conducting Exam: The final two weeks of class will be used for the final conducting projects. Each student will conduct the class in a piece chosen in consultation with the instructor. The piece will be instrumental and will utilize a full score.

E. Conducting Portfolio: A Conducting Portfolio will be due on **Monday, December 3**. The purpose of the portfolio is to organize all conducting materials and evaluations as a resource for further professional growth. The portfolio must be a three-ring binder and contain the following:

1. All Lecture Handouts.
2. All Conducting Excerpts.
3. Self-Evaluations of all Video-Taped Conducting Experiences.
4. All Additional Articles and Supplementary Handouts.
5. All Quizzes and Exams.
6. Any other item deemed important by the instructor.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS*

- 12” to 14” Charles Olsen baton (available from custom-batons.com)
- Hunsberger, Donald. “The Art of Conducting” McGraw-Hill: New York, et al, 2nd ed., 1992
- VHS Video Tape (with your name written on the tape and box)
- Your instrument

*** Failure to bring above materials to class will result in a “0” daily grade.**

VI. GRADING / EVALUATION

The final grade is based on the following:*

A. Weekly Conducting Excerpts: 40% of the final grade will be determined by assigned conducting excerpts. A letter grade will be given for each conducting assignment and then averaged. The lowest grade will be dropped.

B. Quizzes/Assignments: 40% of the final grade will be determined by quizzes on Terms,

transpositions and topics covered in class. A letter grade will be given for each quiz and then averaged. * Non – Participation Grade will be evaluated and adjusted accordingly.

D. Portfolio: The completed conducting portfolio is required for our final grade and will comprise 5% of the final grade.

E. Final Conducting Project: The final conducting project will comprise **15%** of the final grade.

OUTSIDE COMMITMENTS

As a member of the class, we assume that your primary responsibility is to the announced schedule. Outside work and performance opportunities are considered to be the business of the student but should not interfere with the School of Music obligations. Please consider this document a contract of your commitments to the School of Music and Wind Studies Area.

CELL PHONES/PAGERS

It is inappropriate to bring an activated cellular telephone or pager to a rehearsal, concert or class. Please exercise respect for others by eliminating these disturbances.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD))

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT/DISHONESTY

The Faculty of Sam Houston State University expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit), the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

The University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures can be found in the manual entitled Student Guidelines, distributed by Division of Student Services. (Reference Section 5.3 of the SHSU Student Guidelines)

PENALTIES - If you engage in academic dishonesty related to this class, you will receive a failing grade on the test or assignment, and a failing grade for the course. In addition, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for appropriate disciplinary action

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University to review and resolve complaints of sexual harassment by any member of the university community, including faculty, staff, students, or visitors. Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and will be treated as such by the university. Sexual harassment occurs when any person, regardless of gender, is the recipient of unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome requests of sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal, visual or physical conduct of a sexual nature.

Quid pro quo harassment occurs when submission to sexually harassing conduct (as stated above) is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's education or employment, or when submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for academic or employment decisions affecting the individual's education or employment. Quid pro quo harassment is equally unlawful whether the student resists and suffers the threatened harm or submits and thus avoids the threatened harm.

Hostile environment sexual harassment occurs when sexually harassing conduct (as stated above) by an employee, by another student, or by a third party is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity, or creates an intimidating, hostile, offensive or demeaning education or work environment.

Each supervisor has a responsibility to maintain the workplace free of all sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This duty includes discussing this policy with all employees plus assuring students that they are not to endure sexual harassment from university employees or other students. Allegations of sex discrimination will be given immediate attention, and the person charging harassment may do so without fear of retaliation or reprisal. However, false accusations may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Students wishing information and/or consultation concerning sexual harassment may obtain a complete unabridged copy of this policy (which is contained in the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual in the Newton Gresham Library) or contact the Dean of Students' Office.

- 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:
 - 1. Preparatory gestures, downbeats, and releases
 - 2. One, two, three, four, and six patterns
 - 3. Legato, tenuto, light staccato, full staccato, marcato, and non espressivo styles
 - 4. Dynamic indications
 - 5. Ambidextrous conducting
 - 6. Entrances on beats other than one
 - 7. Entrances on incomplete beats
 - 8. Cuing
 - 9. Subdivision -- simple and compound meters
 - 10. Accents, syncopations, and subito dynamic changes
 - 11. Tempo alterations -- ritard, accelerando, new tempo, tenuto, and fermata
- D. The student will evaluate conducting techniques by:
 - 1. Observing and evaluating videotaped conducting experiences
 - 2. Observing and evaluating class members
 - 3. Evaluating four different conductors of various ensembles in a rehearsal setting
- E. The student will demonstrate visual/aural discrimination skills through the rehearsal of musical excerpts and assigned 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).
- H. The student will begin to internalize transpositions and their use in score reading through independent exercises and assignments.