

**MUSC 4850**  
**APPLIED CONDUCTING**  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA—DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Instructor:** Dr. Josh Byrd  
**Office:** HUM 340  
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**Term:** Spring 2017  
**Class Times:** W 11:00-12:30  
**Location:** HUM 331  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Description:**

This course deals with advanced conducting skills, score study, and rehearsal techniques for instrumental and/or choral ensembles. Topics may include baton and hand technique, physical gestures, nonverbal communication, score study, and repertoire.

*Please note that the information contained in this syllabus may be altered by the instructor at any point during the semester in order to adapt to the pace or needs specific to the current class.*

**Course Prerequisite:**

MUSC 3850

**Class Objectives:**

The primary objective of this class is to develop a more thorough understanding of advanced conducting and score study techniques and their uses within the classroom setting. Upon completion of the class students will be able to:

- Demonstrate the “focal plane” conducting technique within pieces from students’ selected genre(s).
- Demonstrate an expanded vocabulary of physical gestures.
- Understand and detail the importance of nonverbal gestures within the ensemble setting.
- Research musical scores in a way that will strengthen their musical and pedagogical approaches to ensemble teaching.
- Understand and utilize a systematic approach towards musical interpretation and translates directly to gesture.

**Required Materials/Technology Requirements:**

- Video camera (either built-in to computer or external)
- Scores (total of 4):
  - *Joy Revisited*, Ticheli
  - *October*, Whitacre
  - Choose one of the following:
    - *Southern Harmony*, Grantham
    - *Overture to the Barber of Seville*, Rossini arr. Byrd (PDF)
  - Choose one of the following:
    - *Concerto for Saxophone*, Mackey
    - *Introduction, Theme and Variations*, Rossini arr. Oliver (EMR 10386)
    - *Architecture of a Dream*, Bobo (PDF)
- Baton

**Attendance Policy:**

In general, do not miss class or arrive late to class. However, if you must miss, please email Dr. Byrd *at least* one day in advance. Excused absences (illness, etc.) must be approved by the instructor; students are allowed one excused absence for the entire semester. After one *unexcused* absence your grade will be lowered by ten percent. Subsequent unexcused absences will also result in a ten percent drop (B to C, etc.) for each class missed. **Late entrances will not be tolerated and may result in students being marked absent for that class day.** Should a student not be able to attend a class, he/she is responsible for the information and assignments covered in class. Presentations and assignments must be completed on their assigned day. All written assignments need to be typed and stapled unless otherwise noted.

**Student Expectations:**

Because this is the final course prior to one's student teaching, particular emphasis will be placed on professionalism through attire, punctuality, and preparation. All assignments must be completed, PRINTED, STAPLED, and turned in on time. Late work will rarely be accepted, even if you were absent from class that day. Again, the purpose of this class is to prepare you for the professional world!

**Email Policy:**

*PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY EMAIL MISSING A HEADER, GREETING, EMAIL BODY, AND/OR SIGNATURE WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.*

**Student Expectations:**

Because this is a hands-on course, participation is vital for student success. All assignments must be completed and turned in on time; be sure to constantly back up your files. Late work will rarely be accepted. Please use UWG email for all electronic communication.

**Course Calendar:**

Weeks 1-3: Conducting Basics, Focal Plane (all patterns), *Joy Revisited*  
Week 4: Partner Lessons (15 minutes)  
Weeks 4-5: Cues and Releases  
Weeks 6-7: Partner Lessons (30 minutes)  
Weeks 8-9: Phrasing and Macro Gestures, *October*  
Week 10: Masterwork and Concerto Preparation  
Weeks 11-13: Nonverbal Communication, "Open" Topics, Partner Lessons (1 hour)  
Weeks 14-15: Masterwork and Concerto Performances with the Wind Ensemble

**Evaluation:**

Students are graded on the quality of work done on assignments, exams, projects, and their ability to articulate concepts and philosophies both verbally and in writing. The following formula will be used to determine your semester grade:

<b>Assignments:</b>	20%
<b>Conducting Lessons:</b>	30%
<b>Lab Band Performances:</b>	25%
<b>Concerto Performance:</b>	10%
<b>Masterwork Performance:</b>	15%

**Grade Scale:**

<b>A</b>	90-100%
<b>B</b>	80-89%
<b>C</b>	70-79%
<b>D</b>	60-69%
<b>F</b>	0-59%

**Lab Band:**

Students will conduct the UWG **Lab Band** (Mondays, 3:30-4:45, as scheduled per MUSC 1000) twice during the semester. Repertoire will consist of *Joy Revisited* by Ticheli (Lab Bands 1-2) and *October* by Eric Whitacre (Lab Bands 3-4).

Lab Band dates: January 30, February 13, March 6, and April 10

**Accessibility:**

All students are provided with equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make those known, either yourself or through the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia: [http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index\\_8884.php](http://www.westga.edu/studentDev/index_8884.php). You can also reach the office by phone at 678-839-6428 or email ([counseling@westga.edu](mailto:counseling@westga.edu)). The office is in Row Hall and is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm (EST). *Any student with a disability documented through Student Services is encouraged to contact the instructor right away so that appropriate accommodations may be arranged.* In addition, certain accommodations (which will be discussed in class) are available to all students within constraints of time and space.

**UWG Common Language Syllabi Information:**

It is important that you review and understand the statements that are common to all courses at UWG. These items address the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email Policy, Credit Hour Policy, and the University of West Georgia Honor Code and Academic Honesty statements.

These statements may be viewed at:

[http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common\\_Language\\_for\\_Course\\_Syllabi.pdf](http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf)

Software may be used in this course to check for plagiarism and students found to have not adhered to the Honor Code will have the violation reported as prescribed and receive a failing grade on the assignment or course.