

MUSC 5850 Applied Conducting

Spring 2019

Tuesdays, 8:10-9:00PM

(individual meetings at convenience of instructor and student)

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http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

Course Description

“Advanced lessons in instrumental conducting; score reading and analysis; rehearsal techniques and ensemble development; problems in tempo, balance, style, and phrasing; mixed meters and other contemporary problems. Students have the opportunity to conduct ensembles.”

Learning Outcomes

In order to pass MUSC 4850/5850 the student must demonstrate:

1. mastery of the basic conducting fundamentals through the conducting of standard ensemble repertoire and by preparation of various scores from the score and contemporary repertoire for band, orchestra, and/or chorus
2. clear entrances, releases, and cues, and use appropriate beat patterns, tempo, and interpretive gestures
3. a thorough knowledge of the score from both a musical and pedagogical perspective
4. detailed diagnoses of performances and use effective rehearsal methods to make improvements
5. the ability to apply the various instrumental and vocal techniques in the preparation of and during the rehearsal and develop verbal and non-verbal communication skills
6. the ability to conduct appropriate analyses of score(s) and with this thorough knowledge attempt to "look like the music," make detailed diagnosis of the performance, and use effective rehearsal methods to make improvements
7. the ability to successfully conduct a university ensemble in rehearsal
8. the ability to identify a broad spectrum of conducting styles to derive meaning, value, and significant in the music
9. the ability to articulate understandings in writing and orally

Course Materials

*Baton

*Score for in-class discussion/analysis:

**Symphony No. 3, Op. 55* movement 1-Ludwig van Beethoven (must purchase score)

I suggest purchasing a used (look for one with no markings) on Amazon. See link below.

https://www.amazon.com/Symphonies-Score-Dover-Music-Scores/dp/048626033X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1515508803&sr=8-1&keywords=beethoven+3+score

Divertimento for Band, Op. 42-Vincent Persichetti

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Divertimento-for-Band/6064646.item#/submit>

**be sure to order the Additional Score, not the condensed score or the full set of score and parts!*

(Additional scores may be added depending on the pace of the class)

Supplementary Readings-in library *I also recommend that you purchase these books for your personal library!!*

- *The Compleat Conductor*-Gunther Schuller
- *Serving Genius*-Thomas Saler
- *The Real Toscanini: Musicians Reveal the Maestro*-Cesare Civetta
- *Guide to Score Study*-Robert Garofolo/Frank Battisti

Course Format

MUSC 4850/5850 will consist of weekly meetings focusing on various aspects of conducting: manual technique, score reading and analysis, error detection, and repertoire. A significant amount of class time will be spent discussing assigned reading material. One of the aims of MUSC 4850 is to help you shape a personal philosophy of conducting through readings by and about leading conductors. ***You will be graded on the substance of your contribution to the class discussion each week.*** MUSC 4850/5850 students will be required to attend each MUSC 1000 lab ensemble meeting assigned to our class (February 11 and April 8, 3:30-4:45PM). Additionally, all MUSC 4850/5850 students will conduct the UWG Saxophone Ensemble on Wednesday evening, April 17, 6:30-9:00PM.

Attendance Policy

You are allowed (but not encouraged to take) **one** absence for the semester. With the second absence your semester grade will be lowered by **one full letter**. With the third

absence you will receive an **automatic “F”** for the semester. Absences may be excused and not count toward a student’s total absences for the semester in **extreme conditions** (serious illness, hospitalization, death in family, auto accident). If a student wishes to have an absence excused she/he must (1) contact the instructor by email **within 48 hours of the absence** and (2) present documentation that justifies the absence **within one week of the absence**. If this procedure is not followed the absence will count toward the student’s total absences for the semester. Absences will be considered excused **at the instructor’s discretion**. Following the procedures listed above does not guarantee that an absence will be excused. The instructor will notify the student by email within one week of receiving documentation if an absence will be excused or not. Once a meeting time is arranged, class will begin promptly at that time each week-**please be punctual!** Students coming to class after the door has been closed will be considered late (no exceptions). Each late arrival will be counted as 1/2 absence, so two late arrivals will be the equivalent of one absence, four late arrivals will be the equivalent of two absences, etc. **Students arriving more than 20 minutes late will be assessed a full absence.**

2 Credit Option

Students enrolled for 2 credits in MUSC 4850 will create an annotated bibliography of works specific to their specialty area (band or chorus). Please see course addendum.

Semester Grade

Your semester grade will be based on a percentage of points earned over the semester relative to the sum total of actual points. Each lab ensemble performance will be worth 100 points. Each quiz, score reading assignment, in-class participation grade, will be worth from 10 to 50 points.

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