MUS 361 Conducting I – Fall, 2014

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Office hours:  MW 10:00-11:00am, TTH 3:00-4:00 pm, or by appointment.

Course Description
Conducting I is an introduction to basic conducting skills with an emphasis on the art and study of conducting, baton technique, left hand technique, non-verbal communication, leadership, conducting terminology, transpositions and score reading.

Course Objectives
• Develop basic conducting techniques for a variety of meter, tempi and styles.
• Acquire knowledge concerning the terminology necessary for successful conducting.
• Establish basic physical gestures with the right and left hands, plus a non-verbal repertoire.
• Increased knowledge of musical terminology, transposition and score study.
• Exploring and developing the leadership skills necessary for successful conducting and musical leadership.

Course Materials
• Flash Drive, USB
• Instructor Approved Baton

Course Projects
• Conducting class ensemble- students will conduct class ensemble consisting of members of the conducting class.
• Reviews of your own conducting videos
• Blackboard/YouTube video reviews of conductors
• Observation journal of conducting faculty- throughout the semester students will observe conductors at ISU other than the ensemble in which they perform and then write a journal of the observation.
• Outside class reading assignments- readings are provided as PDFs on Blackboard.
• Terminology and reading assignment quizzes
• Final Exam
• Final Notebook to be handed in at the end of the year

Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that the
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Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.

Attendance
The presence and class participation of each individual is essential for progress individually and collectively. Attendance at all class meetings is mandatory. In all cases, excluding serious illness and unforeseen emergencies, documentation will be required before the absence occurs for it to be considered excused. All requests for excused absences will be submitted in writing directly to me no later than two weeks prior to the requested absence.

For each unexcused absence your grade can drop 5%, reflective of the final grade. Punctuality and professional behavior is essential to your success as a student, professional musician, future teacher and future conductor. For every two classes you are late, it will equal one absence and your grade will drop 5%.

The determination of excused absences and tardies will be at the discretion of the professor.

Assignments, quizzes, and written exams will be handed in/administered at the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. Handing in assignments at a later date or taking a quiz, and written or conducting exam on a different date will not be allowed. In the case of serious illness and unforeseen emergencies, consideration will be made.

Grading Criteria
Conducting Exams 60%
All other assigned work 40%

Grading Scale
94-100% = A
90-93% = A-
87-89% = B+
84-86% = B
80-83% = B-
77-79% = C+
74-76% = C
70-73% = C-
67-69% = D+
64-66% = D
60-63% = D-
59 and below = Failing
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Week I
M - Introductions, Review Syllabus
   Language of Conducting
   Conductor as Musical Leader #1
   Read: Ch. 1 & 2 – Bailey
   Online Reading Folder #1 – Blackboard
W - Posture, Stance, Position, Hinges
   The Beat, Plane
   Read: Ch. 3 – Bailey
   Exercises: 120 v. 60
F - Conductor as Musical Leader #2
   Read: Online Reading Folder #2 - Blackboard
   Posture, Stance, Position, Hinges - Continued
   Exercises: Horizontal/Vertical Line (green p. 5-6)
           A-Ok (Thumb position practice)
           Circles/Figure Eights

Week II
M Labor Day - No Class (9/1)
W Conductor as Musical Leader #3
   Batons, Grip
   The Beat with a Baton
   Read: Online Reading Folder #3 - Blackboard
         Ch. 3 - Green
F Prep beats and releases
   Read: Bailey - pp. 18-19, 39-41
         Green - pp. 12 -15

Week III
M Intro to Pattern design, Transpositions,
   Types of Scores
   Read: Bailey – pp. 19-25, 113-122
         Green – Ch. 12
         Hunsberger – pp. 54-61
W Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns- Practice
F Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns - Practice

Week IV
M - Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns- Podium
W - Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns- Podium
F - Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns- Podium
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Week V
M - Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns- Podium

Observation I Due

W - Conductor as Musical Leader #4
   Read: Bailey – pp. 27-32
   Online Reading Folder #4 – Blackboard

F - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Practice

Week VI
M - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Practice

W - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Podium

F - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Podium

Week VII
M - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Podium

W - Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns- Podium

F - MID-TERM EXAM (October 10, 2014)

Week VIII
M - Read: Bailey – pp. 33-35
   Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Practice

W - Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Practice

F - Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Podium

Week IX
M - Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Podium

Observation II Due

W - Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Podium

F - Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns- Podium

Week X
M - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Practice
   Read: Bailey – pp. 36-39
   Bailey – pp 43-45

W - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Practice

F - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Podium

Week XI
M - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Podium

W - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Podium

F - Conducting #4 – Pick-up Beats and Subdivision- Podium
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Week XI
M - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Practice
   Read: Bailey – pp. 62-67
   Observation III Due
W - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Practice
F - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium

Week XII
M - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium
W - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium
F - Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium

Week XIII
M - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will – Practice
   Download and Print from Blackboard
W - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will - Practice
F - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will - Practice

Week XIV
No Class Thanksgiving Break

Week XV
M - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will - Podium
W - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will - Podium
F - Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will - Podium
   Final Notebooks Due

Learning Outcomes
The students will be able to demonstrate:
• Basic conducting techniques and patterns for a variety of meter, tempi and styles.
• Acquired knowledge concerning the terminology necessary for successful conducting.
• Basic physical gestures with the right and left hands, plus a non-verbal repertoire.
• Knowledge of musical terminology, transposition and score study.
• Knowledge of the leadership skills necessary for successful conducting and musical leadership.