MUS 361 Conducting I – Fall, 2009

Dr. Jacob Harrison
Office: Music Hall 109    Phone: (515) 294-3978    Email: jgharris@iastate.edu
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.
• Increase knowledge of musical terminology, transposition and score study.
• Explore and develop the leadership skills necessary for successful conducting and musical leadership.

Course Materials
• Flash Drive, USB
• Digital Video Cassette
• Instructor Approved Baton

Course Projects
• Conducting class ensemble- students will conduct a class ensemble consisting of members of the conducting class.
• Individual review of video with professor- individual appointments with instructor to review video of class conducting.
• Online “YouTube” conductor reviews
• 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 1-2 page journal of the observation.
• Outside class reading assignments- readings are provided as PDFs online through the course WebCT page.
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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 instructor.

Assignments, quizzes, and written and conducting 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 quizzes, written or conducting exams on a different date will not be allowed. In the case of serious illness and unforeseen emergencies, exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Grading Criteria
Daily conducting assignments 35%
Rehearsal/You Tube Observations 10%
Conducting Exams 15%
Mid-Term 20%
Final 20%

Date and Time of Final Exam
December 18, 2009
7:30-9:30 am

Grading Scale
90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
59% - below = Failing
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Week I
August 24
Introductions, Review Syllabus
Conductor as Musical Leader, Language of Conducting,
Introductory Exercise: I/O-On/Off–Yes/No
Reading: Bailey – Ch. 1 & 2, pp. 3-9
Wooden on Leadership pp. 14-15
Green – The Modern Conductor pp. 8
Do's and Don’ts for Young Conductors

August 26
Conductor as Musical Leader, Batons/Grip, Posture
Starting and Stopping – Preparation and Cut-off
Introductory Exercise: Impulse of Will
Reading: Welch – How to Be a Good Leader
Green – Impulse of Will pp. 240-241
Reiner – Secrets of the Conductor

August 28
Conductor as Musical Leader
Hinges, Ictus, Speed of Motion, Rebounds
Introductory Exercise – Hinges – 120 vs. 60
Reading: Wittry - Beyond the Baton – 77-78
Collins – Good to Great – Ch. 2 pp. 17-40

Week II
August 31
Baton Purchase Receipts Due
You Tube Conducting Video Reviews Assigned
Rehearsal Observations Assigned
Beat 1 is always Down – Final beat is always Up
3 and 4 beat patterns
Introductory Exercises: Pick it up & Put it down
Reading: Hunsberger Ch. 1 pp. 3-18

September 2
1 and 2 Beat Patterns, Simple vs. Compound Meters,
Dynamics, Ambidextrous Conducting
Reading: Hunsberger Ch. 2 and 3 pp. 19-41

September 4
1st You Tube Conducting Video Review Due
Reading: Conducting Review #1

Week III
September 7
No Class – Labor Day

September 9
Conducting Exam #1 – Group A

September 11
Conducting Exam #1 – Group B

Week IV
September 14
1st Rehearsal Observation Due
Entrances on beats 2, 3, & 4
Introductory Exercises – Figure 8s, Muddy, Walls
Reading: Hunsberger Ch. 4 pp. 42-50

September 16
Entrances on Beats 2,3, &4 - Group A

September 18
Entrances on Beats 2,3, &4 - Group B
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Week V
September 21  
2nd You Tube Conducting Video Review Due  
Subdivision of Beats, Entrances on Incomplete Beats  
Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 6 pp. 82-91  

September 23  
Subdivisions/Entrances Group A  

September 25  
** ISU Symphony Orchestra First Concert**  
Subdivisions/Entrances Group B  

Week VI
September 28  
Introduction to Score Study –Purpose of Score Study  
Brussels’and Paris Conservatories’ Score Study Outline  
Score Order, Clefs, Transpositions  
Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 5 pp. 51-69  
Wittry – Spano Interview – Score Study  
Brussell and Paris Conservatory Outline  
Transpositions Handout  

September 30  
Sample Scores, Terminology, Rehearsals  
Group Rehearsal Plan Project  
Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 5 pp. 70-81  
Karajan – The Rehearsal  

October 2  
2nd Rehearsal Observation Due  
Mid-Term Review  

Week VII– Mid-Term Exams
October 5  
Mid-Term Exam – Part A - Written  
October 7  
Mid-Term Exam – Part B - Conducting  
October 9  
**Symphonic and Concert Band Concert!!**  
Individual Mid-Term Conducting Video Review with Instructor  
Sign up for times  

Week VIII
October 12  
Dynamic Accents – Dynamic Changes  
Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 7 pp. 94-95  

October 14  
Cues  
Reading:  Bailey Ch. 5 pp. 59-62  

October 16  
Guest Lecturer – Dr. Kayoko Dan  
Music Director and Conductor, Central Kentucky Youth Orchestras,  
Former Assistant Conductor for the Phoenix Symphony  

Week IX
October 19  
Dynamic Accents/Changes & Cues – Group A  
October 21  
Dynamic Accents/Changes & Cues – Group B  
October 23  
Tempo Alterations, Tenuto, Fermatas  
Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 7 pp. 96-103
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Week X
October 26  3rd You Tube Conducting Video Review Due
             Tempo Alterations, Tenuto, Fermatas – Group A
October 28  Tempo Alterations, Tenuto, Fermatas – Group B
October 30  Gesture of Syncopation
             Reading:  Green: Ch. 5 pp. 48-52
             Hunsberger: Ch. 7 pp. 95-96

Week XI  **Time Change - Don’t Forget to Fall Back!!**
November 2  3rd Rehearsal Observation Due
November 4  Conducting Exam #2 – Group A
November 6  Conducting Exam #2 – Group B

Week XII
November 9  Asymmetrical Meters and Conducting Patterns
             Exercise Review: Hinges – 120 vs. 60
             Reading:  Hunsberger Ch. 8 pp. 104-110
November 11 Asymmetrical Meters and Conducting Patterns – Group A
November 13 Asymmetrical Meters and Conducting Patterns – Group B

Week XIII
November 16 No Class – ISUSO Children’s Matinee Concert
November 18 Asymmetrical Meters and Patterns (cont) – Group A
November 20 Asymmetrical Meters and Patterns (cont) – Group B

Week XIV (Thanksgiving No Class)

Week XV
November 30 Error Detection – Group A conducts – All attend
December 2 Error Detection – Group B conducts – All attend
December 4 Error Detection – Group A conducts – All attend

Week XVI
December 7 Error Detection – Group B – All attend
December 9 Error Detection – Groups A & B
December 11 Review for Final – Course Evaluations
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SELF/INSTRUCTOR EVALUATION FORM

Name ___________________________ Date ______ Score ______

After viewing the video-tape of your conducting mark each item on the form using a plus sign (+) for very good elements, a check (✓) for those elements that are basically correct and a minus sign (-) for those that need improvement. It is important to be fair to yourself where you excel and where you need improvement. Evaluations are due the following class period after your exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Posture – Arm/Hand Positioning</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_____ proper foot position</td>
<td>_____ upper arm forward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ knees relaxed</td>
<td>_____ elbow lifted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ straight spine</td>
<td>_____ forearm – upper arm angle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ forearm extended</td>
<td>_____ upper body posture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>_____ proper hand position</td>
<td>_____ fingers naturally curved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Preparation | | |
| --- | --- |
| _____ mental set | _____ correct tempo |
| _____ group scan | _____ correct dynamic level |
| _____ smooth preparatory gesture | _____ correct articulation |
| _____ rhythmic breathing motion | _____ clear ictus |
| _____ eye contact | _____ confident and assuring demeanor |

| Beat Patterns and Releases | | |
| --- | --- |
| _____ vertical plane location | _____ pattern clarity |
| _____ vertical plane amplitude | _____ internal releases |
| _____ horizontal plane location | _____ final release |
| _____ horizontal breadth | _____ release preparation |
| _____ clear ictus on each beat | _____ communication |

| Baton Grip and Use | | |
| --- | --- |
| _____ proper contact points | _____ baton on vertical plane |
| _____ natural curve of fingers | _____ ictus at baton tip |
| _____ correct direction of baton | _____ ictus on horizontal plane |

| Left Hand | | |
| --- | --- |
| _____ at rest position: side | _____ appropriate dynamics |
| _____ at rest position: front | _____ crescendo – decrescendo |
| _____ attention position | _____ appropriate releases |
| _____ smooth and independent | _____ sustaining gestures |
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Evaluation Summary: Summarize your conducting evaluation in narrative form. Write one paragraph summarizing the positive elements of your conducting and a paragraph on those elements that need improvement.

SUMMARY OF POSITIVE ELEMENTS:

SUMMARY OF THOSE ELEMENTS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT:
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REHEARSAL OBSERVATIONS

Use this form along with the conductor evaluation form to complete your rehearsal observations. Students must attend the full length of each rehearsal, fill out the conductor evaluation form, write a one-page review of their observations, and have the director of the ensemble initial this form following the rehearsal.

Be beyond courteous and professional. Contact the conductor of the rehearsal you wish to observe at least 1 week prior to visiting rehearsal. Do not forget to have them sign your form! You are expected to visit 3 rehearsals throughout the semester. You should visit a choral, band and orchestra rehearsal. Marching band rehearsal does not count. This exposes you to at least one, possibly two other ensembles in which you do not regularly perform. Please refer to the course schedule to see when evaluations are due throughout the semester.

Rehearsal Observations (3)

1.

Date of Observation: ___________  Name of Ensemble: ________________

Director: ________________________  Director’s Signature: ____________
(ISU Large Ensemble Director)

2.

Date of Observation: ___________  Name of Ensemble: ________________

Director: ________________________  Director’s Signature: ____________
(ISU Large Ensemble Director)

3.

Date of Observation: ___________  Name of Ensemble: ________________

Director: ________________________  Director’s Signature: ____________
(ISU Large Ensemble Director)
CONDUCTOR EVALUATION

Conductor: _________________________________

Ensemble: _________________________________

*Discuss your observations of rehearsal flow and pace, warm-ups, tuning, and demonstration in your two (2)-page review of rehearsal. Take notes during rehearsal so you have something to reference when writing your review. Use the following checklist and corresponding terms and concepts as a reference for areas to pay special attention to while observing rehearsal.

Posture – Arm/Hand Positioning

_____ proper foot position
______ knees relaxed
_____ straight spine
_____ forearm extended
_____ proper hand position

_____ upper arm forward
_____ elbow lifted
_____ forearm – upper arm angle
_____ upper body posture
_____ fingers naturally curved

Preparation

_____ mental set
_____ group scan
_____ smooth preparatory gesture
_____ rhythmic breathing motion
_____ eye contact

_____ tempo
_____ dynamic level
_____ articulation
_____ clear ictus
_____ confident and assuring demeanor

Beat Patterns and Releases

_____ vertical plane location
_____ vertical plane amplitude
_____ horizontal plane location
_____ horizontal breadth
_____ clear ictus on each beat

_____ pattern clarity
_____ internal releases
_____ final release
_____ release preparation
_____ communication

Baton Grip and Use

_____ proper contact points
_____ natural curve of fingers
_____ correct direction of baton

_____ baton on vertical plane
_____ ictus at baton tip
_____ ictus on horizontal plane

Left Hand

_____ at rest position: side
_____ at rest position: front
_____ attention position
_____ smooth and independent

_____ appropriate dynamics
_____ crescendo – decrescendo
_____ appropriate releases
_____ sustaining gestures
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YouTube Video Conducting Review Guidelines

• 3 Reviews required
• Each review will be a minimum of 2-5 pages 12 point, Double Spaced (don’t bother messing with re-formatting the margins or font, etc., I know the difference)
• Camera angle must be on-stage, facing the front of the conductor, no video shot from the view concert hall will be accepted,
• Must include URL and date accessed (when did you watch the clip for review and where did you find it, and must be currently accessible.)
• Name of Conductor, Date of Performance, Ensemble, Composer, Title of Composition, Concert /Rehearsal, Length of Clip, and any additional information provided by the video not already in this list.

I. First Video Review
   a. For your first review, you can find almost any video on YouTube of a conductor as long as it meets the above guidelines.
   b. First Impressions of presentation
      i. What did you notice about presentation – introductory information, camera angle, video quality, sound quality, and anything else you notice. (this could include anything from clothing worn by conductor or something that completely distracted you from the point of the video: fly on the camera, a really loud Hawaiian Shirt, etc.)
      ii. Talk about the Introductory Information: Was there any? Was there too little/too much? Did it go too slowly/too quickly? Please include any and all first impressions.
      iii. Professional production or did someone upload their own home video of a concert/rehearsal/teaching session?
      iv. What do you think the differences would have been between the pro vs. home/amateur production?
   c. What happens in the video?
      i. Is this a concert, rehearsal, conducting-teaching session?
      ii. Describe what happens in the course of the video
      iii. Does the clip start at the beginning of the musical work? Somewhere in the Middle?
      iv. Does video show the full work? If it starts in the middle does it finish the work/movement? Describe what is shown.
   d. What does the conductor do?
      i. Did the music and the conducting line up?
      ii. Big conducting? Small Conducting?
      iv. Would you want to play for this person as a musician in the ensemble being conducted by them?
II. Second Video Review

a. If you reviewed a professionally produced video of a concert for the previous review you must review an amateur/student conducting video for the current video review and the reverse applies if your first review was a student/amateur conducting video. If it was a rehearsal it must be a concert and vice-versa.

b. First Impressions of presentation
   i. What did you notice about presentation – introductory information, camera angle, video quality, sound quality, and anything else you notice. (This could include anything from clothing worn by conductor or something that completely distracted you from the point of the video: fly on the camera, a really loud Hawaiian Shirt, etc.)
   ii. Talk about the Introduction Information: Was there any? Was there too much? Did it go too slowly or too quickly? Please include any and all first impressions.
   iii. Professional production or did someone upload their own home video of a concert/rehearsal/teaching session?
   iv. What do you think the differences would have been between the pro vs. home/amateur production?

c. What happens in the video?
   i. Is this a concert, rehearsal, teaching session?
   ii. Describe what happens in a paragraph what happens in the course of the video
   iii. Start at the beginning of the musical work? Somewhere in the Middle?
   iv. Does video show the full work? If it starts in the middle does it finish the work/movement? Describe what is shown.

d. What does the conductor do?
   i. Did the music and the conducting line up?
   ii. Big conducting? Small Conducting?
   iv. Would you want to play for this person as a musician in the ensemble being conducted?
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III. Third Video Review
   a. Video must be of a student/semi-pro/amateur conductor– no professionally produced video segments will be accepted, must be a performance, no education or rehearsal clips accepted.
   b. Except for the above rules, refer to the previous video guidelines and include answers to all previous questions.
   c. Describe in a minimum of 1 paragraph you how you have changed in how you view a conductor since your first YouTube Video observation.