

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

### Conducting I – MUSIC 361

#### Syllabus - Fall Semester, 2023

Dr. Michael Golemo, Music Hall Room 103

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#### **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.

Since the art of conducting requires, in part, the mastery of certain basic psychomotor skills, this course has been designed to provide each student with the opportunity for as much practical conducting as possible. Class experiences will be both evaluative and non-evaluative, with emphasis on a positive interaction between teacher and student. While the course design facilitates and encourages substantial in-class involvement on the part of each student, outside preparation will be essential to meaningful class participation.

#### **Course Objectives**

- Develop basic conducting techniques for a variety of meter, tempi and styles. These include first beat preparation, attacks, releases, cut-offs, fermati, dynamics and cues.
- Acquire knowledge concerning the terminology necessary for successful conducting.
- Establish basic physical gestures with the right and left hands, plus a non-verbal repertoire.
- Know all transpositions for winds, strings and percussion.
- Recognize and transpose commonly used clefs (used in choral and instrumental music).

#### **Required Course Materials**

- Text: Bailey, Wayne. *Conducting: The Art of Communication* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), Oxford University Press, New York, 2014.
- Instructor-approved baton

#### **Supplemental Reading**

- Text: Green, Elizabeth. *The Modern Conductor* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.), Pearson, London, 2004.
- Text: Hunsberger, Donald. *The Art of Conducting* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.), McGraw-Hill, New York, 1992.

#### **Course Projects**

- Conducting Practica - students will conduct class ensemble consisting of members of the conducting class.
- Reviews of your own conducting videos.
- Observations of ISU conducting faculty or other conductors. Throughout the semester students will observe three conductors and complete a "Rehearsal Observation Form."
- Outside class reading assignments- readings will be sent to you as PDFs via email.
- Terminology, transposition, and reading assignment quizzes.
- Final Conducting Exam

#### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please meet with me by the 10<sup>th</sup> day of university classes. Please request that the Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.

### **Free Expression Statement**

Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of [freedom of speech](#) and the principle of [academic freedom](#) in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

### **Attendance**

The presence and class participation of each individual is essential for progress individually and collectively. Attendance, professional behavior and punctuality are measures of character and leadership and as such, have a direct impact on your success as a future conductor and student in this course. 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. 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. There will be a sign-in sheet for each class session. If you are 10 or more minutes late, your attendance will not be counted for that class session.

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, considerations will be made.

### **Grading Criteria**

Graded Exams/assignments	70% (70 points)
Midterm Exam	20 points
Final Conducting Exam	25 points
3 Conducting Observations	15 points
2 mini surprise quizzes	10 points
All other assigned work	30% (30 points)
Conducting Practica, preparation as player and conductor (attendance)	

### **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

### **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.

The schedule below is only an approximation of when we will actually cover these topics. We may get slightly ahead or behind, based on the speed we will be able to get through conducting practica. If we do get ahead, we might be able to schedule individual conducting appointments in lieu of course sessions.

### **Week I (8/21-8/25)**

- M - Introductions, Review Syllabus  
 Language of Conducting  
 Role of the Conductor – What do we do?  
 Read: Ch. 1 & 2 – Bailey
- W - Conductor as Musical Leader  
 Posture, Stance, Position, Hinges, Conductor Health  
 The Beat, Plane  
 Read: Ch. 3 – Bailey  
 Tempi Exercises: 60, 104, 120
- F - Conductor as Musical Leader  
 Posture, Stance, Position, Hinges, Rectangles/Boxes  
 Exercises: Horizontal/Vertical Line  
 Spell Your Name  
 Circles/Figure Eights  
 Elizabeth Green/Karate Kid

### **Week II (8/28-9/1)**

- M Conductor as Musical Leader  
 Batons, Grip  
 The Beat with a Baton
- W Prep beats and releases  
 Read: Bailey - pp. 18-19, 39-41
- F Intro to Pattern design, Transpositions, Types of Scores  
 Read: Bailey – pp. 19-25, 113-122

### **Week III (9/4-9/8)**

M Labor Day - No Class  
W Transposition  
F Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns and Preparatory Beats - Practice

**Week IV (9/11-9/15)**

M Transposition Mastery Quiz  
W Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns and Preparatory Beats - Podium  
F Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns and Preparatory Beats - Podium

**Week V (9/18-9/22)**

M Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns and Preparatory Beats - Podium  
W Conducting #1 - 3/2/4 Patterns and Preparatory Beats - Podium  
**Observation I Due**  
F Conductor as Musical Leader #4  
Read: Bailey – pp. 27-32

**Week VI (9/25-9/29)**

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

**Week VII (10/2-10/6)**

M Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns - Podium  
W Conducting #2 - 1/5/7 Patterns - Podium  
F **MID-TERM EXAM (October 6)**

**Week VIII (10/9-10/13)**

M Read: Bailey – pp. 33-35  
Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Practice  
W Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Podium  
F Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Podium

**Week IX (10/16-10/20)**

M Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Podium  
**Observation II Due**  
W Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Podium  
F Conducting #3 – 6 Patterns - Podium

**Week X (10/23-10/27)**

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 (10/30-11/3)**

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

**Week XII (11/6-11/10)**

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 XIII (11/13-11/17)**

M Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium  
W Conducting #5 – Fermatas and Tenuto - Podium  
F **No Class – Attend the IMEA Conference**

**Holiday Break (11/20-11/24)**

No Classes

**Week XIV (11/27-12/1)**

M Conducting Preparation for Final Exam  
W Conducting Preparation for Final Exam  
F Conducting Preparation for Final Exam

**Week XV (12/4-12/8)**

**DEAD WEEK**

M Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will and Cues – Practice  
Read: Bailey – pp. 59-60  
W Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will and Cues – Podium  
F Conducting #6 – Impulse of Will and Cues – Podium

**The Final Exam(s)** will be held Monday and Wednesday, December 4 & 6 at 11:00 am during the Symphonic Band rehearsal hour. This exam will be graded based on the student's ability to demonstrate good conducting practices in a "live" rehearsal situation. If a student is unable to attend either of these sessions, an alternate solution will be found to fully cover this exam.