

Course syllabus • Conducting - MUSC 3650 A •

Fall 2013 • M,W 8–8:50 am; F 11–11:50 am

Band Room (FA 150)

Department of Music

College of the Arts

Valdosta State University

Credits: 2-1-2

Pre-requisites or co-requisites:

MUSC 2012 and MUSC 2052 or permission of instructor

Instructor Information:

Dr. Howard Hsu • hphsu@valdosta.edu • 229.333.5841

Office FA268A • Office Hours: M,W - 9 –10 am; T,Th – 12:30–2:30 pm and by appt.

Charles Jeong, Graduate Assistant • hejeong@valdosta.edu

Course description:

Techniques of choral and instrumental conducting.

Required Text:

Phillips, Kenneth H. *Basic Techniques of Conducting*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Course objectives:

- 1) Learn the fundamental skills necessary to become an effective conductor.
- 2) Practice these skills in front of an ensemble.
- 3) Benefit from critiques from instructor and fellow students.
- 4) Provide constructive critiques for fellow students.
- 5) Gain an appreciation for the art of conducting and use these skills to become more complete musicians.

Educational outcomes (DOM Outcomes 3,4; VSU GE Outcome 7):

- 1) Student will learn how to prepare to rehearse and conduct a variety of ensembles.
- 2) Student will have learned how to communicate musically through a clear technique.
- 3) Student will have gained an understanding and appreciation for this discipline.
- 4) Student will learn how to read and analyze a musical score, as well as apply the appropriate conducting techniques based on the score.

Assignments:

Students are expected to prepare the assigned chapter(s) ahead of time. Each student will have the opportunity to conduct the “ensemble,” which will consist of the class, in both instrumental and vocal excerpts. Each student is expected to bring their primary instrument to class to perform in the ensemble. The video assignments require preparation before the class session, and will also serve as an additional instructional tool. Each student will need a smartphone to record the video assignments or a USB flash

drive to copy the video for further study, and will need to purchase a baton (available from the Kilgard's).

Assessment:

Students will be assessed based on attendance (1/4th of final grade), video evaluation homework assignments (1/4th of final grade), and midterm conducting exam (1/4th of final grade). A final podium session will serve as the final exam, counting for 1/4th of the final grade.

Attendance: 10 points for each class attended. Any unexcused absence will result in a 0 for that day's class, and each unexcused late arrival (arrival after attendance is taken) to class subtracts 5 points for that day's attendance grade. The instructor will determine what constitutes an excused absence or late arrival (such as illness with a Doctor's note or personal/family emergencies).

Homework/video evaluation: Up to 10 points for each assignment, graded on attention to detail and thoroughness of self-critique. Homework assignments are due the class following the return of your flash drive. Late assignments will be dropped a letter grade each week it is late.

Midterm conducting exam/Final exam: Graded on implementation of techniques discussed in the text and class for each work performed.

Accommodations statement:

Students with disabilities should inform the instructor of the disability and necessary accommodations. To receive classroom accommodations outside the instructor's resources, students may/should contact the VSU Access Office:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/access/facresources.shtml>

From the VSU Catalog:

"Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 245-2498 (V/VP) and 219-1348 (TTY)."

Academic integrity:

Academic integrity is the responsibility of all VSU faculty and students. Faculty members should promote academic integrity by including clear instruction on the components of academic integrity and clearly defining the penalties for cheating and plagiarism in their course syllabi. Students are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct and the faculty members' syllabi. All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU see

SafeAssign for Students at
<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml> .

Classroom demeanor:

Students are required to demonstrate good classroom demeanor. There must be no use of electronic devices, such as cell phones (set on vibrate only in case of emergencies), and no disruptive talking with classmates or texting. Disruptive students will be dismissed from class.

Physical contact:

Physical contact with the instructor might be used in a functional way to help you better understand corrections given to you concerning your conducting technique. The instructor will ask you for permission first. If you are uncomfortable with physical contact on any level, tell the instructor immediately.

Student evaluations:

Student evaluations of this class will occur online later in the semester. Students will be notified when this is available.

Semester Schedule:

8/12: Lesson 1 and 2: Introduction. Posture, Conducting Area, Preparatory Gestures

8/14: Lesson 3: Four Pattern: Down Beat and Ictus, Releases

8/19: Lesson 4: Four Pattern: Articulation and Tempo Terminology

8:21: Lesson 5: Videotaping #1 (Chester, Austrian Hymn)

8/26: Lesson 6: Three Pattern/Two Pattern, Dynamics

8/28: Lesson 7: Selecting a Baton, Dynamic Changes

9/2: LABOR DAY - no class

9/4: Lesson 8: Baton Grip, Character Terminology

9/9: Lesson 9: Videotaping #2 (My Country, Ode to Joy)

9/11: Lesson 10: One Pattern, Release on One, Accent, Articulation and Connecting Terms

9/16: Lesson 11: Release on Beat Two, Entrance on a Pickup

9/18: Lesson 12: Videotaping #3 (Sing We, Haydn)

9/23: Lesson 13 Videotaping #4 (Brahms, Saint-Saens)

9/25: Lesson 14: Midterm Conducting Exam Part 1 (Sing We, Haydn)

9/30: Lesson 15: Midterm Conducting Exam Part 2 (Brahms, Saint-Saens)

10/2: Lesson 16: Functions of the Left Hand

10/7: Lesson 17 and 18: Left Hand Sustaining Gestures, Coordinating the Two Hands

10/9: Lesson 19: Videotaping #5

10/14: Lesson 20: Subdivision, Cues, Alto and Tenor Clefs

10/16: Lesson 21: Composer's Intent, Listener's Response

10/21: Lesson 22: Entrances on Incomplete Beats, Transposition (C and B-flat)

10/23: Lesson 23: Rehearsal Techniques

10/28: Lesson 24: Fermatas, Compound Meters, Transposition (F, E-flat, A)

10/30: Lesson 25: Asymmetric Meters: Conducting in 5 and 7, Changing Meters

11/4: Lesson 26: Videotaping #7

11/6: Lesson 27: Accents, Tempo Alterations, Section Cues

11/11: Lesson 28: Conducting Synthesis 1

11/13: Practice Handsome Butcher

11/18: Lesson 30: Videotaping #8

11/20: Preparation for Finals

11/25 and 11/27: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY - no class

12/2: Preparation for Finals

12/4: Final Exam Time TBA