

**MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEPARTMENT of MUSIC
COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course Prefix and Number: MU 3412

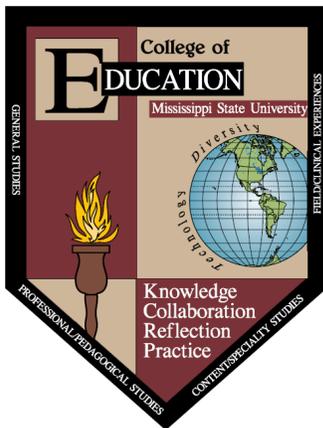
Course Title: Basic Conducting (Instrumental)

Credit Hours: Two (2) Hours

Type of Course: Lecture/ Laboratory

Catalog Description: The elements of conducting, baton technique, and interpretation.

College of Education Conceptual Framework:



The faculty in the College of Education at Mississippi State University are committed to assuring the success of students and graduates by providing superior learning opportunities that are continually improved as society, schools, and technology change. The organizing theme for the conceptual framework for the College of Education at Mississippi State University is educational professionals - dedicated to continual improvement of all students' educational experiences. The beliefs that guide program development are as follows:

1. **KNOWLEDGE** - Educational professionals must have a deep understanding of the organizing concepts, processes, and attitudes that comprise their chosen disciplinary knowledge base, the pedagogical knowledge base, and the pedagogical content knowledge base. They must also know how to complement these knowledge bases with the appropriate use of technology.
2. **COLLABORATION** - Educational professionals must continually seek opportunities to work together, learn from one another, forge partnerships, and assume positions of responsibility.
3. **REFLECTION** - Educational professionals must be willing to assess their own strengths and weaknesses through reflection. They must also possess the skills, behaviors, and attitudes necessary to learn, change, and grow as life-long learners.
4. **PRACTICE** - Educational professionals must have a rich repertoire of research-based strategies for instruction, assessment, and the use of technologies. They must be able to focus that array of skills on promoting authentic learning by all students or clients, while exhibiting an appreciation and commitment to the value and role of diversity.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the student to the basics of conducting and help him/her develop, practice, and refine skills in baton technique, rehearsal technique, score study, and critical listening. The class will also serve as a lab ensemble with each member participating on his/her primary or secondary instrument.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will demonstrate the ability to

1. Use appropriate conducting gestures when conducting an instrumental or choral ensemble. (NASM 4a, MENC 1,2,7; InTASC 6)
2. Listen critically to an ensemble that he/she is conducting or evaluating. (NASM 2a,3b,4a; MENC 6,7)
3. Diagnose basic ensemble performance problems and prescribe solutions to these problems. (InTASC 1,4,8; CFPO 3,4; NASM 2b,4a; MENC 6,7)
4. Understand basic concepts of preparing a score for rehearsal or performance. (CFPO 1,5,6,7; MENC 6)
5. Conduct ensembles in a varied repertoire of music. (NASM 4a)
6. Recognize common musical terms that frequently appear in musical scores and understand transpositions for basic instruments. (CFPO 1,3,4; InTASC 1)

Topics to Be Covered:

Each class session is 50 minutes.

Introduction to Course
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 1: The Baton, Preparation, Downbeat and Release
Practice Round, Chapter 1: The Baton, Preparation, Downbeat and Release
Practice Round, Chapter 1: The Baton, Preparation, Downbeat and Release
Scores and Score Reading. Transposition of wind instruments.
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 2: Beat Patterns and Preparations
Practice Round, Chapter 2: Beat Patterns and Preparations
Practice Round, Chapter 2: Beat Patterns and Preparations
Conducting Evaluation I
Conducting Evaluation I
Lecture/Practice, Chapters 3 and 6: Preps/Releases for All Counts/Styles
Practice Round, Chapters 3 and 6: Preps/Releases for All Counts/Styles
Practice Round, Chapters 3 and 6: Preps/Releases for All Counts/Styles
Introduction to MLR Score Reading Method/Written Assignment 1
Conducting Evaluation II
Conducting Evaluation II
Lecture/Practice, Chapters 8 and 9: The Left Hand (Written

Assignment 1 due)
Practice Round, Chapters 8 and 9: The Left Hand
Practice Round, Chapters 8 and 9: The Left Hand
Conducting Evaluation III
Conducting Evaluation III
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 4: Fractional Beat Preparations
Practice Round, Chapter 4: Fractional Beat Preparations
Practice Round, Chapter 4: Fractional Beat Preparations
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 5: Divided Meters
Practice Round, Chapter 5: Divided Meters
Practice Round, Chapter 5: Divided Meters
Conducting Evaluation IV
Conducting Evaluation IV/Musical Terms
MLR Practice
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 7: The Fermata
Practice Round, Chapter 7: The Fermata
Practice Round, Chapter 7 : The Fermata
Lecture/Practice, Chapter 10: Asymmetrical Meter
Practice Round, Chapter 10: Asymmetrical Meter
Practice Round, Chapter 10 : Asymmetrical Meter
Conducting Evaluation V
Conducting Evaluation V
MLR Practice
Lecture, Chapter 13: The Instrumental Rehearsal

Required Texts/Materials:

- Labuta, J., (2009). *Basic conducting techniques*. 6th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall.
- Froseth, J., (1979). *MLR instrumental score reading program*. Chicago: GIA Publication. (Don't buy the CD set).
- 14" Conducting Baton (\$8.00, available in the band office)
- These scores, which are available for purchase at www.jwpepper.com (1-800-345-6296):
A Childhood Hymn, by David Holsinger (\$4.00)
Little English Suite, by Clare Grundman (\$11.95)
Mini-Suite, by Morton Gould (\$7.50)
Soldiers' Procession and Sword Dance, by Bob Margolis (\$12.00)

Methods of Instruction/Procedures:

A. Conducting Activities

- Conducting technique and rehearsal procedure will be covered mainly through the use of the Labuta text. Please read the assigned text PRIOR to each class meeting.

- Class members will be given opportunities to practice conducting the ensemble. Recordings will be used informally, and 5 conducting evaluations will be graded during the course of the semester. Self-evaluations may be used as well.
- Students will often receive “on the spot” verbal critiques from the instructor during practice sessions, including a brief video review of the material just practiced.
- Each class member will eventually be involved in giving informal critiques and evaluations to other class members. This helps you learn how to teach others in a constructive manner.

B. Critical Listening

- The listening exam will cover material in the MLR Score Reading Program (Level I). Although we will practice in class, preparation outside of class is essential. You may check out the CD set from the band office (Mrs. Fowler).
- It is necessary to study all of the examples in order to be able to discern what is considered acceptable, unacceptable, and questionable.

C. Written Assignments/Quizzes

- From time to time, students will be asked to do written assignments on topics related to conducting. Materials and details will be provided at that time. Quizzes may also be given on material presented in class.

D. Exam

- The final exam is written in nature and may cover any topic discussed in class or found in the Labuta book. Having a working knowledge of the Labuta text is essential to performing well on the final exam.

Suggested Student Activities:

In preparation for practice rounds and evaluations, it is suggested that students spend time studying the scores at the piano. Playing through each part is essential to understanding the music. In addition, students should practice each skill in front of a mirror to visualize the concepts covered in class. Often, this can be done while singing one line of the score. (Course Objectives 1-6)

To prepare for the MLR elements, students should spend time listening to each example and using the practice exams provided to gauge an understanding of the concepts presented in this part of the course.

MSU Honor Code:

“As a Mississippi State University student I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

The Mississippi State Honor Code can be found at <http://www.honorcode.msstate.edu/>

Upon accepting admission to Mississippi State University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor Code. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude

any member of the MSU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor Code. For additional information please visit: <http://honorcode.msstate.edu>

Technology:

Students will be evaluated informally using video recordings of their practice conducting rounds. Students will have the opportunity to view selected recordings of their conducting for evaluation on their own. The MLR portion of this course requires listening to and evaluating musical recordings.

Diversity and Field Component:

Diversity is not addressed specifically in this course, nor is there a field component to it.

Disability:

Please inform the instructor during office hours if you have a university documented disability which may require some modification to seating, testing, or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For more information on this subject, contact the Student Support Services Office (325-3335).

Grading:

Grading will be as follows:

Conducting Exams	50% of total
1 written exam (final)	15% of total
Attendance, Participation	15% of total
Written assignments/Quizzes	10% of total
MLR Exam	10% of total

	100%

A = 90% - 100%	D = 60% - 69%
B = 80% - 89%	F = Below 60%
C = 70% - 79%	

Borderline grades may be adjusted either way depending on attendance, participation, and attitude.

In accordance with departmental policy, music majors must make a “C” in this course (70% or higher) and pass the upper level proficiency exam to enroll in Advanced Conducting.

Course Policies/Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Students with excessive unexcused absences (more than 1) and/or excessive tardies (more than 2) should expect to have their final grade lowered. Students who miss 7 or more classes for any reason (excused or unexcused) should expect to receive an F in this course.

If you are ill or are unable to attend class because of an emergency, please contact the instructor before the class session. If you are scheduled to conduct an exam on a day you are absent, you will be rescheduled at a later date assuming your absence is excused and you provide appropriate documentation upon return.

You have a dual responsibility for attendance in this course—to yourself, and to your colleagues who depend on your part being played or sung when they are scheduled to conduct. In return for having live musicians to conduct and teach, please be considerate by being present for all class meetings.

Bibliography:

Bailey, W. (2008). *Conducting: The art of communication*. Oxford University Press.

Demaree, R., (1995). *The complete conductor*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Garofalo, R. (2005). *Lead and inspire: A guide to expressive conducting*. Silver Springs, Maryland: Whirlwind Music Publications.

Maiello, A., (1996). *Conducting: A hands-on approach*. np: Belwin-Mills Publishing.

Phillips, K., (1997). *Basic techniques of conducting*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Stotter, D., (2006) *Methods and materials for conducting*. Chicago: GIA Publications.