

The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 3311 Conducting, Fall 2025

Course day and time: **10:10–11:05 MWF** in FAC 1221

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 903.521.6825. email: jemge@uttyler.edu

Office: FAC 2023—Student office hours: 1-3 MTWRF or by appointment

DESCRIPTION: MUSI 3311 is a required conducting course for all course plans leading to a bachelors degree in music. MUSI 3311 is an introductory course on conducting and focuses on stick technique, the baton's place in space, and audiation of basic melodies while conducting. In a sense, this introductory course centers on the theory and physical aspects of conducting.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

12" or 14" Baton with wood shaft—your choice of color; No fiberglass batons or cork handles allowed
Undergraduate Conducting textbook (See CANVAS→MUSI 3311→MODULES)
(White preferred) poster board, at least 24" x 24" in size; needed at second week of class
cellphone that can record at least 15 minutes of consecutive video @1080p (mirroring OFF)

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS (not required):

Elizabeth Green: *The Modern Conductor*, 5th–7th edition
Joseph Labuta: *Basic Conducting Techniques*, 8th edition;
Kenneth Phillips: *Basic Techniques of Conducting*

ATTENDANCE:

You are counted as present in class, if:

*you arrive no later than 10:15, you have your baton, and you are participating in class
(which includes not wearing headphones or earbuds, and not looking at your cellphone during class).

Excessive absences will affect the final grade. Students are allowed three absences without the final grade being affected. Each absence, starting with the fourth, will lower the semester average by two points. The instructor retains the sole right to determine whether an absence is of an emergency nature that would not count towards the three allowed absences. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis. Student participation in UT-Tyler-sponsored trips (absences associated with a UT Tyler course in which the student is enrolled AND the required two weeks advance notice in writing has been given) do not count towards the three allowed absences. Vacations, trips not associated with a UT Tyler class, airplane schedules, etc. are not reasons to miss class, and work missed for these reasons will be given a grade of zero. If a student has nine or more absences, **regardless of the reason**, s/he must drop the course or receive a grade no higher than a D.

HOWEVER, if you are legitimately sick, DO NOT COME TO CLASS. You must then go to the university clinic or a doctor. After an absence for illness, I will not allow you to come back to class unless I see a note stating you were seen by the university clinic or your own private physician, and cleared to return to class.

Students without a baton are not allowed to conduct in class.

HYGIENE: As we still have Covid-19 among us, extra precautions are in place for the entire semester. I ask all students to hand sanitize upon entering the class; a hand sanitizing bottle/station is located at the door to the classroom. Even though the state of Texas forbids public universities to require a mask when indoors, I encourage everyone to wear a mask indoors and to receive the free Covid-19 vaccination.

STUDENT DRESS AND CONDUCT: Hats or caps of any kind, pajamas, or sleep pants are prohibited as dress in this class. Any recording—video and/or audio—of any portion of lectures without written, prior approval of instructor is strictly forbidden, and violators will be asked to drop the class and referred for disciplinary proceedings. Students must avoid wearing strong perfumes/after shave in rehearsal, as they can easily trigger allergies. Personal grooming and hygiene are important in group settings. Students with noticeable body odor will be asked to leave class and charged with an absence. Do not use smartphones, tablets, or laptops for checking messages or using the internet (see: "Attendance").

*Since the class requires a variety of movement exercises, one class will require the student to lie on the floor. Plan accordingly; bring casual clothes for these days, and a blanket or towel for the floor. Refer to the course outline. There is no substitute assignment of the student forgets appropriate clothing or does not attend class that day.

Resources for Students

The University of Texas at Tyler has numerous policies and resources regarding deadlines, student assistance, academic information, and your rights as a student.

For MUSI 3311, these policies can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

GRADING:

The final grade is determined by:

25% Three quizzes (1 written and 2 conducting, conducting quizzes recorded with Youtube links sent to my e-mail)

15% written midterm exam

15% conducting mid-term exam

20%written final exam

20% conducting final exam

5% gesture diary–typed; due last day of class

GRADING SCALE: 90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D

Student Outcomes By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

*articulate both verbally and non-verbally the basic gesture syntax that conductors use;

*demonstrate basic proficiencies of conducting with a baton in 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 patterns;

*demonstrate both orally and visually differences in legato, mezzo, and staccato patterns

*demonstrate basic left hand/right hand independence;

*develop reasonable command of X and Y axes in order to communicate meter and gesture to a performer;

*develop a repertoire of cuing and fermatas consistent with 21st century usage

Statement on Plagiarism the use of Artificial Intelligence

For any written work involving the writing of paragraphs, papers, or analytical work in prose form, I reserve the right to use Turnitin© or similar plagiarism detection software to determine if you are the actual author of any written work product involving prose. If I detect or through Turnitin© detect the likelihood that you either plagiarized work, or copied in whole or in part work from another student, or used Artificial Intelligence to create the work, a grade of zero will be assigned.

Conducting: Tentative Course Outline

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| August 25 | Introduction to course; class 1–history of conducting |
| August 27 | The role of the conductor, past and present, the “triad” |
| August 29 | Basic principles of movement (on floor; dress accordingly) |
| September 1 | <i>Labor Day–No Class</i> |
| September 3 | Basic principles of movement, continued |
| September 5 | Standing and presentation; physical warm-up; X and Y axes (have poster board!) |
| September 8 | X and Y axes with left and right hand (census date) |
| September 10 | The baton and its presentation; preparatory gesture and downbeat |
| September 12 | Conducting in 2; <i>ictus</i> and <i>takt</i> |
| September 15 | Quiz One (written)–basic functions |
| September 17 | Conducting in 2 and in 4; music examples |
| September 19 | Conducting in 3; music examples; singing exercises I |
| September 22 | Legato and staccato; music examples |
| September 24 | Examples of incomplete measures; review of 2, 3, 4 patterns; conducting with left hand |
| September 26 | Conducting in 5 and 6; music examples |
| September 29 | Tenuto gesture; review of patterns |
| October 1 | Gesture of Syncopation; Quiz 2–singing and conducting exercises I (video submission) |
| October 3 | “Dead” gesture; gesture analysis; incomplete measures |
| October 6 | Conducting in “one to the bar”; Review of gestures and conducting vocabulary |
| October 8 | Video: <i>The Art of Conducting</i> (on youtube.com; students must watch outside class) |
| October 10 | Video discussion; phrase analysis; review for midterm exam |
| October 13 | Mid-term Exam (written and conducting video) |
| October 15 | Development of left hand independence |
| October 17 | LH shaping exercises (crescendo/diminuendo exercises) |
| October 20 | In-class practice with LH shaping exercises |
| October 22 | “Supermeter” concept |
| October 24 | Introduction to Cues (left hand) |
| October 27 | Cue exercises with simple patterns (2, 3, 4) |
| October 29 | In-class practice: LH crescendo/diminuendo exercises Quiz 3–LH shape (video submission) |
| October 31 | LH independence exercises (circle, square, triangle) for final exam |
| November 3 | Introduction to the three types of fermatas |
| November 5 | Fermata type I practice; music examples |
| November 7 | Fermata type II practice; music examples (November 4, last day to withdraw) |
| November 10 | fermata exercises type III |
| November 12 | Asymmetric meters: fast 5 and 7 |
| November 14 | Music examples with fermatas for gesture analysis |
| November 17 | Hypermeter; fractional meter |
| November 19 | Review of irregular meter; metric modulation |
| November 21 | Conducting idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical |
| Nov 22-30 | <i>No Class–Thanksgiving Holiday</i> |
| December 1 | Idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Early Romantic, Late Romantic |
| December 3 | Video: <i>The Art of Conducting</i> , part 2 (on youtube.com; students watch outside class) |
| December 5 | Review for Final Exam; Conducting final exam gestures assigned; gesture diary due |

Final Exam (tentative): Monday December 10, 10:15am-12:15am conducting video link due by 6:00p.m.
Late video links are penalized 10% per hour