

MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001

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"Be so intentional in all of your movements that the choir cannot help but follow you"
— Matthew Brooks (former conducting student)

Welcome

This course is designed to refine your existing conducting technique within the context of choral music, score preparation and choral performance practices.

Course Scope & Objectives

Upon successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate conducting gestures and techniques unique to rehearsing and conducting a choral ensemble.
2. Analyze, edit and prepare (mark) a choral score for rehearsal/performance.
3. Objectively evaluate the conducting technique of yourself and others, and formulate steps for continued improvement.

Course Equipment

- Score packets printed from Canvas before each class
- A three-ring binder for your score packets
- Highlighters and/or colored pencils
- Baton (see below)

Baton

As tempting as it is to use a pencil, a pencil is not a baton. And while choral music conductors often use hands-alone, baton technique is also critical to your success (for instance Robert Shaw, pictured above).

A 12" Molland baton is required for this course. Molland batons are weighted properly for conducting. These are generally available at Mundt Music, but may also be purchased online directly from Molland. Either of the following types are acceptable:

- ["P" Series baton](#). Handle may be any color, but the shaft should be carbon fiber or white birch wood. Do not select a natural-colored shaft as the purpose for a baton is to be easily visible.

Or

- ["S" Series baton](#). Same instructions as above. This style of baton has a larger pear-shaped handle which may be easier to grip for some. It's a matter of personal preference. After many years I switched to using this type.

Course Activities

1. **Scores and Batons.** Score packets for each module in this course will be provided on Canvas and must be printed out and brought to each class meeting. Reading a conducting score from a screen will not be accepted. Your baton must also be brought to each class. *Not bringing your score packet or baton to class will result in a 10% deduction off your final grade for each occurrence.*

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To Do

- [The Role of the Conductor](#) X
MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001
Jan 12 at 9:05am
- [Packet 1 - Beat Pattern Review](#) X
MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001
Jan 14 at 9:05am
- [\(MLK DAY\)](#) X
MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001
Jan 19 at 12am
- [Packet 2 - Syncopations](#) X
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Jan 26 at 9:05am
- [Packet 3 - Fermata](#) X
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Feb 2 at 9:05am
- [Packet 4: Articulations](#) X
MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001
Feb 11 at 9:05am
- [Packet 5 - Cueing \(Midterm\)](#) X
MUSI-3226 (2026-SPRING) 001
Feb 18 at 9:05am

January 2026									
28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			

Assignments are weighted by group:

Group	Weight
Attendance	5%
Recordings	56%
Self-Reviews	10%
Conductor Reviews	10%
Terminology Tests	5%
Midterm	7%
Final	7%
Total	100%

Score packet or device to class will result in a 10% reduction off your final grade for each occurrence.

Please do not depend on other students to share their materials, as each conductor will be marking their own scores.

2. Practical Recordings (56% of grade). Weekly graded conducting recordings will take place in class using your smart phone or other device. If you do not have a smart device, please let me know the first day of class and another means of recording will be provided. Video links are due through Canvas upload by the end of the recording day.

Prior to our weekly recording days, please ensure that you have enough free memory on your device for the length of assignment being recorded. An accurate way to check available memory is to do a practice recording of the assigned music ahead of time. Video that is incomplete due to phone memory, tardiness, or any other reasons will be reduced in score. Please plan accordingly.

3. Self-Reviews (10% of grade). In conjunction with each recording, a written self-review of your conducting is also required. It is important that these are completed promptly so that you may effectively evaluate your own progress and improvement. Self-reviews are uploaded to Canvas by the Friday of each recording week.

4. Professional Conductor Reviews (10% of grade). Much can be learned from evaluating the conducting of others. In addition to reviewing your own conducting, regular written reviews of professional conductors is also required. A list of choral and orchestral conductors will be provided from which to review video recordings.

5. Midterm (7% of grade) and **Final Exam** (7% of grade). Practical conducting exams will be given to assess cumulative skills mastered to date.

6. Music Terminology Tests (each 2% of grade). Two, 100-word [music terminology](#) identification tests will be given on Canvas, one prior to spring break, and one after the break. These tests will be open and available to take starting the first day of class (Test 1), and then again open after Spring Break (Test 2).

7. Attendance and Participation (5% of grade). Given that this is a highly interactive, physical lab course, you are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled classes. Excused absences are only given in the event of an official university-sanctioned absence, or with a doctor's note. Otherwise no make-ups will be given for missed class activities or evaluations.

Grading & Evaluation

Final grading scale: A = 100-90%, B=80%, C=70%, D=60%. I do not give extra credit.

Please do not cheat or [plagiarize](#), which will result in an F for the course. Using AI for the completion of any assignment without the express approval of the professor is also cheating.

Course Adjustments

If necessary, the information contained in this syllabus may be subject to adjustment as long as the change is without prejudice to the students.

Additional Course Information

Advanced Choral Conducting (MUSI 3226)

Spring 2026

MW 9:05-10:00

FAC 1222

Dr. Cameron Rose - Balderas

crose@uttyler.edu

903-566-7304

FAC 1213

Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:15 pm, or by appointment, or by knocking if available.
Questions, suggestions or just need a comfortable chair to rest in? I welcome your visits!

Census Date: January 26, 2026

[University Policies and Information](#)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Mon Jan 12, 2026	 The Role of the Conductor	9:05am