The University of Texas at Tyler

MUSI 3311 Conducting, Fall 2026

Course day and time: **1:25-2:20 MWF** in FAC 1221
Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Emge, 903.521.6825. email: jemge@uttyler.edu
Office: FAC 2023—Student office hours: 9-11 MWF and 10-12 TR 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,* 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 1:40, 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 in crowded places, 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 or explicit 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 triggered 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 if 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

August 24	Introduction to course; class 1–history of conducting
August 26	The role of the conductor, past and present, the "triad"
August 28	Basic principles of movement (on floor; dress accordingly)
August 31	Basic principles of movement, continued
September 2	Standing and presentation; physical warm-up; X and Y axes (have poster board!)
September 4	X and Y axes with left and right hand (Sep. 8–census date)
September 7	*Labor Day–No Class*
September 9	The baton and its presentation; preparatory gesture and downbeat
September 11	Conducting in 2; *ictus* and *takt*
September 14	**Quiz One (written)–basic functions**
September 16	Conducting in 2 and in 4; music examples
September 18	Conducting in 3; music examples; singing exercises I
September 21	Legato and staccato; music examples
September 23	Examples of incomplete measures; review of 2, 3, 4 patterns; conducting with left hand
September 25	Conducting in 5 and 6; music examples
September 28	Tenuto gesture; review of patterns
September 30	Gesture of Syncopation; **Quiz 2–singing and conducting exercises I (video submission)**
October 2	"Dead" gesture; gesture analysis; incomplete measures
October 5	Conducting in "one to the bar"; Review of gestures and conducting vocabulary
October 7	Video: *The Art of Conducting* (on youtube.com; students must watch outside class)
October 9	Video discussion; phrase analysis; review for midterm exam
October 12	**Mid-term Exam (written and conducting video)**
October 14	Development of left hand independence
October 16	LH shaping exercises (crescendo/diminuendo exercises)
October 19	In-class practice with LH shaping exercises
October 21	"Supermeter" concept
October 23	Introduction to Cues (left hand)
October 26	Cue exercises with simple patterns (2, 3, 4)
October 28	In-class practice: LH crescendo/diminuendo exercises **Quiz 3–LH shape (video submission)**
October 30	LH independence exercises (circle, square, triangle) for final exam
November 2	Introduction to the three types of fermatas
November 4	Fermata type I practice; music examples
November 6	Fermata type II practice; music examples (November 4, last day to withdraw)
November 9	fermata exercises type III
November 11	Asymmetric meters: fast 5 and 7
November 13	Music examples with fermatas for gesture analysis
November 16	Hypermeter; fractional meter
November 18	Review of irregular meter; metric modulation
November 20	Conducting idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Baroque, Classical
November 21-29	*No Class-Thanksgiving Holiday*
November 30	Idiosyncrasy by period: Renaissance, Early Romantic, Late Romantic
December 2	Video: *The Art of Conducting,* part 2 (on youtube.com; students watch outside class)
December 4	Review for Final Exam; Conducting final exam gestures assigned; **gesture diary due**

Final Exam: Monday December 7, 12:30pm-2:30pm conducting video link due by 6:00p.m.
Late video links are penalized 10% per hour