

PELLISSIPPI STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

CONDUCTING I
MUS 2310

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 1.0

Date Revised: Spring
99

Catalog Course Description:

Basic skills of conducting: beating of traditional time patterns, preparatory beat, cut-offs, cuing, musical expression, clarity and the use of the baton. Development of the left hand, fermata, and subdividing. Style and interpretation of each time period. Conducting “live” ensembles; videotapes of each student conductor.

Entry Level Standards:

College-level math, reading and writing skills are required. Each student should possess a working knowledge of the fundamentals of music theory and a comprehensive knowledge of music history. Each student should have extensive experience as a member of a mixed ensemble and/or choral conducting experience.

Prerequisites:

One year of music theory and MUS 2000, or consent of the instructor

Corequisite:

MUS 1511

Textbook(s) and Other Reference Materials Basic to the Course:

Green, Elizabeth A. H., *The Modern Conductor* – most recent edition

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week	Topic
1	Importance of music; ensemble teaching
2	Fundamental patterns
3	Score preparation, unifying technique
4	Achieving expressive conducting, dynamics, and phrasing
5	Attacks, releases, and fermatas; Irregular, changing meter
6	Stylistic interpretation for Renaissance
7	Stylistic interpretation for Baroque

8	Stylistic interpretation for Classical; Midterm Exam
9	Stylistic interpretation for Romantic Literature
10	Stylistic interpretation for 20th– Century Literature
11	Pre-rehearsal planning: ensemble seating, voice classification, warm-ups, rehearsal techniques
12	Selecting music and programming
13	Introducing music
14	Balance and blend
15	Pitch and Intonation
16	Final Exam

II. Course Objectives*:

- A. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the broad historical framework from medieval music through the twentieth century and the performance practices associated with the various periods. I, IV
- B. Evidence an understanding of the basic elements of music and associated terminology important to the preparation of a musical score. I, II, III
- C. Acquire a sound technique and mastery of basic conducting patterns and skills. III, IV
- D. Communicate effectively and expressively in a conducting style. II, III, IV
- E. Develop necessary practical skills to function effectively as an ensemble director. II, III, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Fine and Applied Arts department.

III. Instructional Processes*:

Students will:

1. Participate in structured class discussions that deal with the interpretation and analysis of selected music from various historical periods and cultures. *Communication Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation, Active Learning Strategy*
2. Develop written reports of musical events that they attend, emphasizing the correlation between information covered in class and the observation of principles in actual practice. *Communication Outcome, Cultural Diversity and Social Adaptation, Active Learning Strategy, Transitional Strategy*
3. Participate in conducting activities in which they observe, evaluate, and analyze conducting techniques as applied to assigned music. *Communication Outcome, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Active Learning Strategy*

*Strategies and outcomes listed after instructional processes reference Pellissippi State' s goals for strengthening general education knowledge and skills, connecting coursework to experiences beyond the classroom, and encouraging students to take active and responsible roles in the educational process.

IV. Expectations for Student Performance*:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define basic terminology related to music and explain specific works in those terms. B
2. Prepare a score for teaching and conducting. A, B
3. Identify the various styles and the historical performance practices for each time period: Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th– Century. A
4. Utilize appropriate gestures and facial expressions to achieve expressive communication with members of the ensemble. C, D
5. Demonstrate the basic conducting techniques of time beating, irregular and changing meter, cut-offs, preparatory beats, fermata, setting of tempo and other changes in the score. B, C
6. Select appropriate literature that matches the capabilities of the ensemble. E
7. Apply criteria of judgment to selected musical works of various composers from each of the historical periods. A, B
8. Effectively deal with diction, tone production, placement, phrasing, posture, and intonation in a choral setting. C, D, E

*Letters after performance expectations reference the course objectives listed above.

V. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 65% of grade

Students will be given a midterm exam that will constitute 25% of the final grade. This practical exam of demonstrating conducting skills will be based on physical techniques and patterns discussed in class.

Students will be given a final exam that will constitute 25% of the final grade. This practical exam of demonstrating conducting skills will be based on physical techniques and patterns discussed in class.

Students will be given frequent quizzes throughout the semester. They will be short-answer format and will be given over musical terminology and ideas and concepts discussed in class. The overall average of these periodic quizzes will account for 15% of the semester grade.

B. Laboratory Expectations: 10% of grade

The student is expected to attend class regularly and to participate in class discussions and projects to include some or all of the following:

to serve as directors in sectional rehearsals, to prepare warm-ups for assigned classes, to prepare a selected score for performance with the ensemble, to aid in critiquing fellow conducting students during video taping, to complete assigned writing projects in personal journals. These laboratory experiences will constitute 10% of the final grade.

C. Field Work: 25% of grade

During the semester students are required to attend five live performances that require a conductor, each activity contributing 5% of the final grade. To receive credit for this activity, the student must submit a concert program and a brief written report in which the student

evaluates the conductor's performance and in which he applies a concept(s) studied in class.

VI. Policies:

Attendance Policy:

REQUIRED! Roll will be taken. Excused absences will be at the discretion of the instructor. Students are responsible for work missed due to absence. College policy states that if a student misses more than 25% of regular class meetings, he will automatically receive a failing grade for the course. This applies to BOTH excused and unexcused absences.