

# MUG 4104: Conducting I

*2015 Fall Semester Syllabus*

**Class Meetings:** SBH/MUB 120  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5<sup>th</sup> Period  
Fridays: Individual Lessons

**Instructors:** Dr. Chip Birkner                      chipbirk@ufl.edu  
Mr. Josh Davis                                      davisjm@ufl.edu

**Office:** SBH 101

**Phone:** 352-273-3146

**Required Text:** "Basic Conducting" David Waybright

**Required Materials:** Baton: Mollard Conducting Baton 14  
metronome  
audio/video recording device

**Suggested Reading:** "The Modern Conductor, 7<sup>th</sup> ed" Elizabeth A. Green

**Course Description:** Conducting I is an introduction to basic conducting concepts focusing on the relationship of gesture to sound, acquisition of basic conducting techniques, and the fundamentals of score reading and score preparation.

## Learning Objectives:

### **The student conductor will:**

- Demonstrate appropriate conducting posture and hand/baton positions
- Demonstrate adequate skill in basic gestural techniques
- Demonstrate appropriate score study/score preparation habits through use of piano and part-singing
- Demonstrate adequate skill in conducting historically appropriate performances through adequate score preparation
- Demonstrate ability to appropriately assess conducting performances
- Exhibit knowledge of basic conducting terminology

## Learning Activities to meet the Objectives:

### **Conducting Gesture Tests (6)**

**[10 points each, total: 60 points]**

There will be six (6) conducting technique tests taken during the weekly ten-minute lessons. Tests will assess the student's ability to demonstrate:

1. Basic patterns, prep, beats and cut-offs

2. Basic articulations and dynamic changes
3. Accents and gesture of syncopation
4. Subdivision
5. Fermatas
6. Use of left hand

**Classroom Participation [30 points]**

Each student will be assigned a total of four (4) in-class conducting sessions. The student is responsible for obtaining an adequate audio/video recording of his/her conducting session.

In addition, each student will be expected to prepare **ALL** pieces covered during the course. Each student will adequately prepare his/her vocal line **AND** be able to conduct the ensemble through the piece.

**Conducting Self-Assessments (4) [10 points each, total: 40 points]**

The student will complete a Conductor's Self-Assessment Form (provided) following each of his/her 4 assigned in-class conducting sessions. The student will be assessed on the quality of his/her reflections in each of the assessment subcategories. *DUE 24 HOURS AFTER CONDUCTING SESSION. Turn-in to your current instructor (Birkner or Rochford)*

**Professional conductor evaluation [10 points]**

The student will write a 500-word evaluation on a professional conductor. The evaluation must be on a conductor of a college choir, orchestra, or wind band – or a similar professional ensemble in a live **performance** (not rehearsal) outside of class. Evaluations should be based on observations of conducting techniques and musicianship discussed in class. The student may not evaluate a conductor's performance in which he/she is participating. *DUE 12/7 by 4pm.*

**Midterm: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation	<b>[30 points]</b>
Piano score reading/sight singing	<b>[20 points]</b>

**Final: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation	<b>[30 points]</b>
Piano score reading/sight singing	<b>[20 points]</b>

**Attendance. [10 points]**

1-2 unexcused absences:	10 points
3-5 unexcused absences:	0 points
More than 5 unexcused absences:	-10 points
Perfect Attendance:	10 point BONUS... 20 points total

***Perfect Attendance means no absences (excused or unexcused) or tardies.***

### **Attendance and Make-up Policy:**

Requirements for class attendance and assignments in this course are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

- In the case of an absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other university-approved absence (e.g., jury duty) which the student knows about in advance, the student is expected to notify the instructor of the conflict *before the absence*, and if possible at the start of the semester.
- There are NO make-ups for missed in-class conducting sessions. If you have an **excused** absence for your assigned conducting session, you will be given the opportunity to write a 5-page paper on a topic approved by the instructor.
- For all other assignments, the students will not be granted an extension or be permitted to make up the assignment without an acceptable reason, such as an illness or serious family emergencies, in accordance with university policies on absences.
- Lesson appointments during Friday class counts toward the attendance record.
- Two tardy days = one absence.

### **Caveat**

The above procedures and following schedule for this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances.

### **Cumulative Grade:**

A 232-250	B- 199-206	*C- 174-181
A- 224-231	C+ 192-198	*D+ 167-173
B+ 217-223	C 182-191	*D 157-166
B 207-216		*D- 149-156
		*E 0-148

\*Music majors earning a C- or below must repeat the course.

To view how an earned letter grade converts to GPA, please reference this link: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>.

## Course Schedule

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Tuesday	8/23	Class 01	Course Explanation	Read Chap. 1-2
Thursday	8/25	Class 02	Movement and Music/meet mentor	Read Chap. 3-4
Tuesday	8/30	Class 03	Gestural/Baton Technique	Read Chap. 5-6
Thursday	9/1	Class 04	Gestural/Baton Technique	Read Chap. 7-9
Tuesday	9/6	Class 05	Gestural/Baton Technique	
Thursday	9/8	Class 06	"Sing We and Chant It"	
Tuesday	9/13	Class 07	"Come Again Sweet Love"	
Thursday	9/15	Class 08	"Ein Feste Berg"	
Tuesday	9/20	Class 09	"Ave Verum Corpus"	
Thursday	9/22	Class 10	"He that Shall Endure"	
Tuesday	9/27	Class 11	"My Dancing Day"	
Thursday	9/29	Class 12	"But Thanks"	
Tuesday	10/4	Class 13	"Fire, Fire"	
Thursday	10/6	Class 14	"Chester" (to be handed out)	
Tuesday	10/11	Class 15		<b>MIDTERM TESTING</b> <b>(2 Days Each In That Order)</b> Mr. Davis' Class: Piano/ Conducting Dr. Birkner's Class: Conducting/ Piano
Thursday	10/13	Class 16		
Tuesday	10/18	Class 17		
Thursday	10/20	Class 18		
Tuesday	10/25	Class 19	"Shenandoah" (to be handed out)	
Thursday	10/27	Class 20	"Sussex Mummer"	
Tuesday	11/1	Class 21	"Lift Thine Eyes"	
Thursday	11/3	Class 22	"O Magnum"	
Tuesday	11/8	Class 23	"Christ Lag"	
Thursday	11/10	Class 24	"Rufford Park"	
Tuesday	11/15	Class 25	"Let Us Now Praise Famous Men"	

(to be handed out)

Thursday 11/17 Class 26 "Messiah Medley

Tuesday	11/22	Class 27	<b>FINAL EXAMS</b> <b>(2 Days Each In That Order)</b> Mr. Davis' Class: Piano/ Conducting Dr. Birkner's Class: Conducting/ Piano
Tuesday	11/29	Class 28	
Tuesday	12/1	Class 29	
Tuesday	12/6	Class 30	

Tuesday 12/7 **Conductor Evaluations Due (Must be received by 4pm)**

**You may submit papers electronically or in hard-copy form.**

**Mr. Davis' class submits to Mr. Davis. Dr. Birkner's class submits to Dr. Birkner.**

### **Policy on late work:**

Late work will not be accepted. All assignments must be received by the times listed above. If you choose to submit assignments electronically, the assignment must be received in my inbox no later than the date/time assigned. **There will be no allowances** made for difficulties as a result electronic submission (i.e. internet connectivity, attachment problems, etc.)

### **Friday Lessons & Technique Quizzes**

You will be assigned a mentor who will set up weekly ten-minute sessions to help you with your technique and evaluate your quizzes. **Missing a scheduled lesson counts as an absence.**

\*\*I have created a website, primarily for High School Student Conductors, with several instructional videos/exercises that will greatly benefit you in this class. It is my hope that you will utilize this resource to supplement your gestural training. The website can be viewed at [www.fbastudentconductor.blogspot.com](http://www.fbastudentconductor.blogspot.com).

### ***Academic Honor Policy***

It is expected that you will exhibit ethical behavior concerning your work in this class. Students are expected to do their own work, use their own words in papers, and to reference outside sources appropriately. Failure to uphold the standards of academic honesty will result in the appropriate disciplinary action.

As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement:

"I understand that the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University."

We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Furthermore, on work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

### ***Students Requesting Accommodations due to Disabilities***

To request classroom accommodations, contact the Assistant Dean of Students/Director of the Disability Resources Program at P202 Peabody Hall or call 392-1261 (V), 392-3008 (TDD). That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.