

# MUG 4104: Conducting 1

---

## *2020 Fall Semester Syllabus*

**Class Meetings:** SBH  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5<sup>th</sup> Period  
Private Lessons via ZOOM: TBA

**Office Hours:**  
M, W, F 6<sup>th</sup> period

**Instructor:** Dr. Chip Birkner                      chipbirk@ufl.edu

**Office:** SBH 105

**Phone:** 352-273-3146

**Required Text:** "Basic Conducting" David Waybright (provided in Canvas)

**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 1 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 Quizzes (6) [10 points each, total: 60 points]**

There will be six (6) conducting gesture assessments in which the student will demonstrate:

1. Basic patterns, prep, beats and cut-offs *Due 9/22/20 by 11:59pm*
2. Basic articulations and dynamic changes *Due 10/1/20 by 11:59pm*
3. Accents and gesture of syncopation *Due 10/13/20 by 11:59pm*
4. Subdivision *Due 10/22/20 by 11:59pm*
5. Fermatas *Due 11/3/20 by 11:59pm*
6. Use of left hand *Due 11/12/20 by 11:59pm*

Students will video record themselves performing the assessments and upload the video to the appropriate assignment page in Canvas *before 11:59pm on the due date.*

### **Classroom Participation [30 points]**

Each student will be assigned a total of two (2) 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 in their portion of the course (choral or instrumental). Each student will adequately prepare his/her vocal line or instrumental line **AND** be able to conduct the ensemble through the piece.

On Zoom observation days, students are expected to provide at least one constructive critique of each conductor during his/her conducting session in the Zoom chat.

### **Conducting Self-Assessments (2) [15 points each, total: 30 points]**

The student will complete a Conductor's Self-Assessment Form (provided in Canvas) following each of his/her 2 assigned in-class conducting sessions. The student will be assessed on the quality of his/her reflections in each of the assessment subcategories. *Must be uploaded to Canvas no later than 24 HOURS AFTER CONDUCTING SESSION.*

### **Score Terminology Terms Test [50 points]**

Students will complete a multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank quiz on conducting terms found in the Score Terminology for the Conductor pdf

found in Module 1 of the course Canvas page. This test will be conducted using *Honorlock*. Please read the *exam environment prep info* sheet provided on the test page. *Due 10/15/20 by 11:59pm.*

**Professional conductor evaluation [20 points]**

The student will write a 600-800 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 video **performance** (not rehearsal). Evaluations should be based on observations of conducting techniques and musicianship discussed in class. The student must include an active URL for the video used in the paper. *Must be uploaded to Canvas by 12/9 by 11:59pm.*

**Final: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation [30 points]

Piano score reading/sight singing [20 points]

**Attendance. [10 points] [attendance will be taken for live AND zoom meetings]**

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, due 4pm on the final day of classes (day before the Thursday “Reading Day”).
- 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 count 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 224-250
- B 199-223
- C 174-198
- D 149-173
- E 0-148

\*Music majors earning a 173 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>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Tuesday	9/1	Course Explanation/Movement and Music	Read Chapters 1-4
Thursday	9/3	Gestural/Baton Technique	Read Chapter 5-9
Tuesday	9/8	Gestural/Baton Technique	
Thursday	9/10	Guest Lecture: Dr. David Waybright	

Beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>, those assigned to Choral Conducting portion of class will meet in the SBH **each Tuesday** Period 5. **(see Canvas Modules for music)**

Beginning September 17<sup>th</sup>, those assigned to Instrumental Conducting portion of class will meet in the SBH **each Thursday** Period 5. Please be sure to have your primary instrument with you at each class meeting. **(see Canvas Modules for music)**

### **Holiday (no class meetings)**

Thursday 11/26

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

Late work will not be accepted. All assignments must be received by the times listed above. **There will be no allowances** made for difficulties as a result of electronic submission (i.e. internet connectivity, attachment problems, etc.) Please do not wait until the last minute to submit your work. If you have technical difficulties, contact the UF Computing Help Desk.

### **Private Conducting Lessons & Technique Quizzes**

You will be assigned to a Conducting Graduate Student as a mentor who will meet with you once per week at a mutually agreed upon and scheduled time. This meeting will take place via Zoom (your TA will provide his/her Zoom link). Your conducting mentor will help you with your conducting technique and tutor you on material in the quizzes. **Missing a scheduled group lesson counts as an absence.**

### **Extra Resource**

\*\*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.

### ***Course Evaluations***

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### ***COVID-19 Policies***

We will have face-to-face instructional sessions to accomplish the student learning objectives of this course. In response to COVID-19, the following policies and requirements are in place to maintain your learning environment and to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions.

- You are required to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings. Following and enforcing these policies and requirements are all of our responsibility. Failure to do so will lead to a report to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.
- This course has been assigned a physical classroom with enough capacity to maintain physical distancing (6 feet between individuals) requirements. Please utilize designated seats and maintain appropriate spacing between students. Please do not move desks or stations.
- Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.

- Follow your instructor’s guidance on how to enter and exit the classroom. Practice physical distancing to the extent possible when entering and exiting the classroom.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms ([Click here for guidance from the CDC on symptoms of coronavirus](#)), please use the UF Health screening system and follow the instructions on whether you are able to attend class. [Click here for UF Health guidance on what to do if you have been exposed to or are experiencing Covid-19 symptoms](#).
  - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work. [Find more information in the university attendance policies](#).

**Recording of Class**

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

**Conducting 1 MUG 4104  
Self-Assessment Form**

**Body Position/Posture**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---



---



---

Score: \_\_\_\_/10

**Baton Technique/Gestural Clarity**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Score: \_\_\_\_/10

### **Preparatory Beat(s)/Releases**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Score: \_\_\_\_/10

### **Musicianship**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Score: \_\_\_\_/10

### **Overall Presence & Confidence**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

Score: \_\_\_\_/10

<b>Subcategories</b>	
Very Good:	9-10
Good:	7-8
Fair:	5-6
Poor:	3-4
Very Poor:	1-2

Total Score: \_\_\_\_/50