

# MUG 4104: Conducting I

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## 2021 Fall Semester Syllabus

**Class Meetings:** SBH; MUB 120/MUB 121, MUB 142  
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 5<sup>th</sup> Period  
Fridays: Individual Lessons

**Instructors:** Dr. Chip Birkner [chipbirk@ufl.edu](mailto:chipbirk@ufl.edu)  
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Mr. Nieves Villaseñor [nievesvillasenor@ufl.edu](mailto:nievesvillasenor@ufl.edu)

**Office:** SBH 105

**Phone:** 352-273-3146

**Required Text:** “Basic Conducting” David Waybright  
(download from 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 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 *Due 9/21/21 by 11:59pm*
2. Basic articulations and dynamic changes *Due 9/30/21 by 11:59pm*
3. Accents and gesture of syncopation *Due 10/14/21 by 11:59pm*
4. Subdivision *Due 10/26/21 by 11:59pm*
5. Fermatas *Due 11/04/21 by 11:59pm*
6. Use of left hand *Due 11/16/21 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 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 in Canvas) 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. *Must be uploaded to Canvas no later than 11:59pm THE DAY AFTER YOUR 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 11/02/21 by 11:59pm.*

**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. *Must be uploaded to Canvas by 12/8 by 11:59pm.*

**Midterm: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation	<b>[30 points]</b>
Piano/Score Reading	<b>[20 points]</b>

**Final: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation	<b>[30 points]</b>
Piano/Score Reading	<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, due 4pm on the final day of classes (day before the Tuesday “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 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 269-300  
B+ 257-268  
B 239-256  
C+ 227-238  
C 209-226  
D 194-208  
E 0-193

**\*Music majors earning a 208 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**

#### **FULL CLASS TOGETHER IN SBH**

Tuesday	8/24	Course Explanation	<b>Before you get to class:</b> Have read Chap. 1-2
Thursday	8/26	Gestural/Baton Technique	Have read Chap. 3-4
Tuesday	8/31	Gestural/Baton Technique	Have read Chap. 5-6
Thursday	9/2	Gestural/Baton Technique	Have read Chap. 7-9

#### **ROTATION A (BRAUE'S CLASS IN MUB, BIRKNER'S CLASS IN SBH)**

Tuesday	9/7	"Sing We and Chant It"
Thursday	9/9	"Come Again Sweet Love"
Tuesday	9/14	"Ein Feste Berg"
Thursday	9/16	"Ave Verum Corpus"
Tuesday	9/21	"He That Shall Endure"
Thursday	9/23	"My Dancing Day"
Tuesday	9/28	"But Thanks"
Thursday	9/30	"Fire, Fire"

#### **MIDTERM TESTING**

Tuesday	10/5	In-Class Conducting
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Thursday 10/7 In-Class Conducting  
Tuesday 10/12 Piano/Score Reading  
Thursday 10/14 Piano/Score Reading

**ROTATION B (CLASSES SWITCH LOCATION)**

Tuesday 10/19 "Chester"  
Thursday 10/21 "Shenandoah"  
Tuesday 10/26 "Sussex Mummer"  
Thursday 10/28 "Lift Thine Eyes"  
Tuesday 11/2 GUEST LECTURE (**FULL CLASS** IN SBH)  
Thursday 11/4 "O Magnum Mysterium"  
Tuesday 11/9 "Christ Lag"  
Tuesday 11/16 "Rufford Park Poachers"  
Thursday 11/18 "Let Us Now Praise Famous Men"

**FINAL TESTING**

Tuesday 11/23 In-Class Conducting  
Tuesday 11/30 In-Class Conducting  
Thursday 12/2 Piano/Score Reading  
Tuesday 12/7 Piano/Score Reading