

# MUG 4104: Conducting I

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## *2023 Fall Semester Syllabus*

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

**Instructors:** Dr. Chip Birkner                      chipbirk@ufl.edu  
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**Office:** SBH 105

**Phone:** 352-273-3170

**Required Text:** "Basic Conducting" D. Waybright, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (Blue cover)

**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

**Private Conducting Lessons:** You will each be assigned a Conducting Mentor. That person will arrange a mutually agreed upon 10-minute (weekly) private lesson with you. Attendance at these lessons is required and **will** count toward your class attendance. These lesson times are for you to receive feedback on your conducting skills in preparation for your in-class conduction sessions, as well as to work on the material presented in the six (6) Conducting Gesture Quizzes.

### **Learning Activities to meet the Objectives:**

#### **Conducting Gesture Quizzes (6) [10 points each, total: 60 points]**

The Conducting Gesture Quizzes will assess the student's ability to demonstrate:

1. Basic patterns, prep, beats and cut-offs *Due 9/7/23 by 11:59pm*
2. Basic articulations and dynamic changes *Due 9/21/23 by 11:59pm*
3. Accents and gesture of syncopation *Due 10/5/23 by 11:59pm*
4. Subdivision *Due 10/26/23 by 11:59pm*
5. Fermatas *Due 11/9/23 by 11:59pm*
6. Use of left hand *Due 11/16/23 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*. \*\*In order to receive credit, each quizzes recording must be 1 continuous "take" (i.e. do not stop and restart recording between each line of the quiz).

#### **Classroom Participation [25 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 and quantity of his/her reflections in each of the assessment subcategories. *Must be uploaded to*

*Canvas no later than 12:35pm THE DAY AFTER YOUR CONDUCTING SESSION.*

### **Conducting Terms Quizzes**

**[75 points total]**

Students will complete a total of (4) in-class conducting terms quizzes. The list of terms can be found on the course canvas page in the "Week 2" module.

Students will have exactly five minutes to complete the quizzes. Quizzes will start promptly at 11:45a on the days indicated below. Late arrivals to class will not be given extra time.

Conducting Terms Quiz 1	9/14/23	[20 points]
Conducting Terms Quiz 2	9/28/23	[20 points]
Conducting Terms Quiz 3	10/24/23	[15 points]
Conducting Terms Quiz 4	11/2/23	[20 points]

### **Midterm: (explained in class)**

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

### **Final: (explained in class)**

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

### **BONUS: Perfect Attendance: [10 points]**

The course canvas page indicates this assignment to be worth "zero points," but rest assured, I will add the extra 10 points at the end of the course for those deserving.

**Perfect Attendance means no absences (excused or unexcused) or tardies from classes AND conducting private lessons.**

### **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.
- Conducting Private Lesson appointments with your Assigned TA will 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 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

Thursday	8/24	Course Explanation
Tuesday	8/29	Gestural/Baton Technique
Thursday	8/31	Gestural/Baton Technique
Tuesday	9/5	Gestural/Baton Technique
Thursday	9/7	Gestural/Baton Technique

### **Before you get to class:**

Have read Chap. 1-2  
Have read Chap. 3-4  
Have read Chap. 5-6  
Have read Chap. 7-9

### ROTATION A

Tuesday	9/12	“Sing We and Chant It”
Thursday	9/14	Conducting Terms Quiz 1 “Come Again Sweet Love”
Tuesday	9/19	“Ein Feste Berg”

Thursday	9/21	“Ave Verum Corpus”
Tuesday	9/26	“Woodland Night”
Thursday	9/28	Conducting Terms Quiz 2 “My Dancing Day”
Tuesday	10/3	“But Thanks”
Thursday	10/5	“El Grillo”

### **MIDTERM TESTING**

Tuesday	10/10	In-Class Conducting
Thursday	10/12	In-Class Conducting
Tuesday	10/17	Piano/Score Reading
Thursday	10/19	Piano/Score Reading

### **ROTATION B**

Tuesday	10/24	Conducting Terms Quiz 3 “Lift Thine Eyes”
Thursday	10/26	“Kyrie” (Schubert)
Tuesday	10/31	“Sussex Mummer”
Thursday	11/2	Conducting Terms Quiz 4 “O Schöne Nacht”
Tuesday	11/7	“O Magnum Mysterium”
Thursday	11/9	“Christ Lag”
Tuesday	11/14	“Rufford Park Poachers”
Thursday	11/16	“Messiah Medley”

### **FINAL TESTING**

Tuesday	11/21	In-Class Conducting
Tuesday	11/28	In-Class Conducting
Thursday	11/30	Piano/Score Reading
Tuesday	12/5	Piano/Score Reading

### **Course Evaluation Process:**

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/>.