**CONDUCTING 1**

MUS 317

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

**Dr. Michael S. Butler**

*Director of Bands*

NOEL Fine Arts Center, NFAC 317

**Phone:** 715.346.4599

**Email:** Michael.Butler@uwsp.edu

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Class Meeting Time/Location**

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00 – 10:50

Room: NFAC 240

**Course Description**

The content of this course includes the development of basic conducting techniques with exploration in score reading and sight-singing. Students are required to be at least a junior and majoring in music, or have instructor consent.

**Required Texts & Materials**

1. *Basic Conducting* by David Waybright
2. 14 inch GL Custom Baton ($41)

**Suggested Reading**

1. *The Modern Conductor* by Elizabeth Green

**Course Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain and demonstrate proper posture for the conductor.
2. Explain and demonstrate appropriate use of the baton, hand position and conducting plane.
3. Demonstrate expressive use of both hands as related to the musical ideas in the score.
4. Demonstrate professional stage presence and emotional communication while conducting in class.
5. Conduct in a variety of styles including legato, marcato, staccato, etc.
6. Conduct selected beat patterns and mixed meters.
7. Effectively cue parts of the ensemble.
8. Define musical terms as appropriate to the knowledge of a conductor.
9. Demonstrate the ability to analyze the musical score to obtain knowledge about formal structure, melodic and harmonic movement, phrasing, and any idiosyncrasies specific to the score.
10. Demonstrate the ability to play multiple parts at the piano.
11. Demonstrate the ability to sight-sing individual parts of the score.

**Grading**

260 points total (270 with perfect attendance)

A 233 – 250 points

A- 225 – 232 points

B+ 215 – 224 points

B 208 – 214 points

B- 200 – 207 points

C+ 193 – 199 points

C 183 – 192 points

C- 175 – 182 points

D 150 – 174 points

F 0 – 149 points

1. **Conducting Gesture Tests (10 points each, total: 60 points)**

There will be six individual conducting level tests (criteria below). They are worth 10 points each and a score of 7 out of 10 must be earned to pass the quiz. Each quiz will be videotaped for self-analysis.

* 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

1. **Classroom Participation (10 points each, total: 40 points)**

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

1. **Conducting Self-Assessments (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 SATURDAY BY MIDNIGHT IN THE WEEK OF YOUR SESSION* *USING THE GOOGLE DOC*.

1. **Professional conductor evaluation (10 points)**

The student will write a minimum 500-word evaluation comparing and contrasting two professional conductors (e.g., Riccardo Muti and Robert Shaw). Please watch (can be live or via the internet) an entire performance of a composition by each conductor to gain a good understanding of each conductor’s style. Evaluations should be based on observations of conducting techniques and musicianship discussed in class. **These are due to Dr. Butler via email by midnight on 11/18. No physical submissions.**

1. **Midterm: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation **(30 points)**

Piano score reading/sight-singing **(20 points)**

1. **Final: (explained in class)**

In-class conducting evaluation **(30 points)**

Piano score reading/sight-singing **(20 points)**

1. **Attendance (10 points)**

1-2 absences: 10 points

3-5 absences: 0 points

More than 5 absences: -10 points

Perfect attendance: 10 point BONUS…20 points total

**Attendance Policy**

You may miss 2 classes for whatever reason necessary, so save them for illness or trips. (Note: There are NO make-ups for missed in-class conducting sessions. If you are absent for your assigned session, you will be given the opportunity to write a 5-page paper on a topic assigned by Dr. Butler). Two tardy days = one absence. Please be on time so not to interrupt any student presentations. *Perfect Attendance* means no absences or tardies.

**Music Education Students**

Music education students must show professional dispositions and proficiency in the skills of this course, which are essential to future success in teaching practice, by earning a grade of B- or better.  Music education students who do not demonstrate proficiency will receive a grade of D+ or lower, and will be required to repeat the course in order to student teach.

**Electronic Devices**

All cell phones and electronic devices should be turned off before entering the classroom.

**Student with disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP’s policies, check here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/faculty/lawAndPolicy.aspx>.

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center at the beginning of the course and then contact me. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the

Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/disability/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Caveat**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

**Course Calendar**

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment for following class** |
| Tuesday | September 5 | Class overview | Get baton. Read Ch. 1-3 |
| Thursday | September 7 | Gestural/Baton technique |  |
| Friday | September 8 | Gestural/Baton technique | Read Ch. 4-6 |
| Tuesday | September 12 | Gestural/Baton technique | Read Ch. 7-9 |
| Thursday | September 14 | Gestural/Baton technique |  |
| Friday | September 15 | Work on Quizzes 1-3 |  |
| Tuesday | September 19 | Work on Quizzes 4-6 |  |
| Thursday | September 21 | Review |  |
| Friday | September 22 | Rehearsal of upcoming pieces |  |
| Tuesday | September 26 | Come Again, pg. 92 |  |
| Thursday | September 28 | Ein’ Feste Burg, pg. 97 |  |
| Friday | September 29 | Ave Verum Corpus, pg. 82 |  |
| Tuesday | October 3 | Rehearsal of upcoming pieces |  |
| Thursday | October 5 | He That Shall Endure, pg. 117 |  |
| Friday | October 6 | Sussex Mummer, pg. 181 |  |
| Tuesday | October 10 | Sing We and Chant It, pg. 176 |  |
| Thursday | October 12 | My Dancing Day, pg. 159 |  |
| Friday | October 13 | **Midterm conducting** |  |
| Tuesday | October 17 | **Midterm conducting** |  |
| Thursday | October 19 | **Midterm conducting** |  |
| Friday | October 20 | **Midterm piano/singing** |  |
| Tuesday | October 24 | **Midterm piano/singing** |  |
| Thursday | October 26 | **No Class – WSMA Conference** |  |
| Friday | October 27 | **No Class – WSMA Conference** |  |
| Tuesday | October 31 | **Midterm piano/singing** |  |
| Thursday | November 2 | Rehearsal of upcoming pieces |  |
| Friday | November 3 | **No Class – N.A.T.S.** |  |

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Topic** | **Assignment** (read before next class) |
| Tuesday | November 7 | Golden Carol, pg. 105 |  |
| Thursday | November 9 | Lift Thine Eyes, pg. 127 |  |
| Friday | November 10 | O Magnum Mysterium, pg. 161 |  |
| Tuesday | November 14 | Rehearsal of upcoming pieces |  |
| Thursday | November 16 | Christ Lag, pg. 90 |  |
| Friday | November 17 | Chester (handout) |  |
| Tuesday | November 21 | Rufford Park, pg. 170 |  |
| Thursday | November 23 | **No Class – Thanksgiving Break** |  |
| Friday | November 24 | **No Class – Thanksgiving Break** |  |
| Tuesday | November 28 | Rufford Park, pg. 170 |  |
| Thursday | November 30 | Rufford Park, pg. 170 |  |
| Friday | December 1 | Rufford Park, pg. 170 |  |
| Tuesday | December 5 | **Final Conducting** |  |
| Thursday | December 7 | **Final Conducting** |  |
| Friday | December 8 | **Final Conducting** |  |
| Tuesday | December 12 | **Final piano/singing (Monday & Tuesday)** |  |
| Thursday | December 14 | **No class** |  |
| Friday | December 15 | **No class** |  |