

University of Arkansas – Fort Smith
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General Syllabus
MUSI 3822 Principles of Conducting

Credit Hours: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Prerequisite: Music major or consent of instructor

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

The study of the principles and practices of conducting with focuses on baton techniques, score study, transpositions and basic terminology.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

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

1. Demonstrate a skillful coordination of the right hand and arm to conduct the traditional rhythmic meter designs of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 12 beats per measure.
2. Demonstrate a skillful gesture to conduct all subdivisions of basic meter designs as well as the ability to “meld” smoothly from one beat design to another and from non-divided beats to subdivisions and the reverse.
3. Achieve through the conducting gesture a precise initial attack on any pulse or anacrusis of all meter designs.
4. Achieve through the conducting gesture a precise release on any pulse or anacrusis of all meter designs.
5. Achieve with the right hand and arm any expressive element within musical thought.
6. Communicate through conducting effective cuing of any part on any pulse of all meter designs.
7. Demonstrate a coordinated flow of the left hand and arm, either intermittent or continuous, to achieve all of the above mechanics in sympathy with the right hand and arm.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of instrumentation, transposing instruments, and the instrumental score.

9. Demonstrate an understanding of effective score study preparation, and rehearsal techniques.

B. University Learning Outcomes

MUSI 3822, Principles of Conducting, enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking

Students will draw conclusions and/or solve problems using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of musical performance.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will communicate proficiently using proper musical terminology; personal expression within the context of a musical performance.

Ethical Decision Making

Students will model ethical decision-making processes whether in musical research, presentation, or performance.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will appreciate and reflect upon cultural differences and their implications for interacting with people from cultures other than their own.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Basic Principles and Techniques
- B. The Posture, Preparatory Gestures and Downbeats
- C. Releases, Four and Three-beat Patterns
- D. Style of Articulation
- E. Two-beat Patterns, Dynamics, Ambidextrous Conducting
- F. Communicating the Ictus
- G. Alternative Pattern Styles
- H. Using the Baton
- I. One-beat Patterns
- J. The Left Hand
- K. Score Study, Clefs, Transpositions, Sample Scores, Terminology
- L. Rehearsals
- M. Conducting Accompaniments, Contemporary Music, Musical Theatre, Jazz Ensemble