

Course Description and Objectives:

Students will be introduced to the fundamental skill sets required of clear and communicative conducting.

Objectives:

By the completion of the course the student will:

1. Demonstrate basic conducting patterns (1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9) including beat subdivisions
2. Demonstrate standard expressive conducting gestures (ex. legato, full and light staccato, marcato, tenuto, dynamics) and apply these techniques to specific style periods.
3. Demonstrate a personal, yet effective, language for the left hand.
4. Interpret common tempo, instrument, and style terms from Italian, French, and German.
5. Notate the correct transposing intervals and ranges of instruments. Transpose to and from sounding pitch.
6. Acquire fundamental techniques for rehearsals, score study, interpretation, and application.
7. Explore body movement techniques.
8. Regularly apply all techniques to a live ensemble experience.
9. Identify and locate resources for hearing, vocal and musculoskeletal health.
10. Demonstrate understanding of health and safety practices appropriate to the course content

Text and Materials:

- Labuta, Joseph A. *Basic Conducting Techniques*, 7th ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 2009.
- Baton - recommended length 12"-14" (Available via amazon.com, premierbatons.com, mollard.com, or other baton manufacturers...just don't get a King David cork handled baton. They're bad.)
- Supplemental materials may be distributed by the instructor.

Attendance:

As a competency based experiential class, attendance is absolutely critical to obtaining the requisite skills from the class. As such, two *carte blanche* absences are granted per semester. Should you befall upon circumstances that require additional absences for reasons of serious illness or an emergency, such absences will be excused if officially documented. Absences caused by conflicts with professional development opportunities must be discussed with the professor 14 calendar days in advance, and will be approved or denied on a case-by-case basis. *No excused absences will be granted for conflicts with professional development opportunities post-absence.* More than one unexcused absences will cause your attendance grade to be lowered by one letter per additional absence. Excessive unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course.

Tardiness:

Though “tardies” are strongly frowned upon, a tardy is preferred to an unexcused absence. Should you be late to class by more than ten minutes more than twice, each subsequent tardy will require an additional assignment of the instructor’s choosing to prevent the tardy from converting to an unexcused absence. Tardy is defined as not being in your seat, with your materials ready (instruments included) when the class is scheduled to begin.

Assignments:

Any homework assignment must be typed/printed; handwritten assignments will not be accepted (in-class written assignments excepted). Emailed assignments will not be accepted. Whenever possible, avoid abbreviations, contractions, and colloquialisms – adhere to professional standards

Evaluation/Grading:

Mid-term written examination	15% (P/F)
Two rehearsal observation write-ups	25% (P/F)
Final conducting demonstration	25% (P/F)
Conducting practica/ensemble participation	35% (P/F)

Assignment grades will be assessed on a competency based model. As such, **only one 48-hour extension will be granted.** However, the student will be given an opportunity to correct work until it passes the competency threshold. Failures of technology, such as printing issues, failed hard drives, theft, etc., are not acceptable excuses. With forethought, a little judicious paranoia, and cloud based storage such as Google Drive or Dropbox, academic “emergencies” can be easily prevented.

Grades of “Incomplete” are only given in *extreme* cases and the reason(s) must be documented via the office of the Dean of Students. Poor time management or opting to prioritize extracurricular activities over academics, do not constitute an “extreme case.” Should you have any difficulties with time management, you are encouraged to speak to the instructor or locate a resource through the office of the Dean of Students before your grade is negatively impacted.

Mask Policy:

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Carthage College has adopted a policy requiring masks to be worn by all individuals in all buildings. Masks must be worn at all times in the classroom, laboratory, studio spaces, hallways, bathrooms, and during in-person meetings. The face covering must conform to CDC guidelines and must cover both the nose and mouth at all times. Note that bandanas, neck gaiters, and masks with exhalation or external valves are not acceptable and are not sufficient for protection of others or yourself. Acceptable masks tie behind the head or loop behind the ears, fit snugly over the nose and chin, and can include cloth masks, medical/surgical masks, and N95s or KN95s. Eating and/or drinking are prohibited while in the classroom (because those activities interfere with consistent mask wearing).

Any student who refuses to wear a mask or consistently forgets one will be dismissed from the class and not be given an opportunity to make up missed work. The student will also be referred to the Dean of Students, as outlined by the process on Carthage’s Stay Safe website.

Stay Safe Guidelines: <https://www.carthage.edu/carthage-covid-19/stay-safe-carthage/>

Support for Students with Learning, Psychiatric or Physical Disabilities:

Support for students with special learning needs will be arranged for students who provide official documentation. Once official documentation has been provided and deemed appropriate, the Center for Student Success (262-551-2345) will notify the student's instructors each semester the student is enrolled, at the student's request. The instructors will be provided with a summary of the student's disability and recommendations for accommodations. Students are also responsible for speaking with faculty to communicate their needs and to make requests in a timely manner. (<http://www.carthage.edu/student-success>)

Academic Integrity:

This course adheres to the College's guidelines as well as utilizes the vast anti-plagiarism tools available to all instructors. Group work is permitted and encouraged but should a student attempt to present another's work as his or her own, the student will earn an "F" for the assignment and possibly for the course. Plagiarism is defined in the Carthage College student handbook as:

...the appropriation by any means of another's work or words and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or words in one's written [as well as oral] work offered for credit. Some ideas have such wide currency that all may use them freely; some words, such as proverbs and clichés are public property. But when the writer borrows what belongs to another, the writer must indicate the source by way of an internal reference, and she/he must enclose all distinctive words of the source within quotation marks [or otherwise denoted].

Students enrolled in this course are expected to be familiar with and abide by the college academic honesty guidelines. (<http://www.carthage.edu/campus-life/code/academic-concerns>)

When in doubt, cite the source.

Communication:

Students are expected to monitor their *carthage.edu* email as well as utilize eLearning. Email is the preferred method of communication, however, all assignments should be submitted to the instructor as a hard copy – emailed assignment submissions will not be accepted unless specifically instructed to do so by the professor.

Citations/Style guides:

Refer to the Seventh Edition of the APA (American Psychological Association) publication manual for all citation and formatting guidelines. A website maintained by Purdue (Purdue OWL https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style) is a useful primer into APA 7. Also, the Carthage Writing Center can provide assistance if needed.

Health and Safety Resources: The Carthage College Music Department, in compliance with the National Association of Schools of Music, provides faculty and students with information regarding health and safety issues related to the teaching, listening, practice, and performance of music in general and specialized study. This includes but is not limited to information regarding hearing health, vocal health, and musculoskeletal health.

Health and safety depend in large part on the personal decisions of informed individuals. Carthage College has health and safety responsibilities that are inherent in our practices, procedures, and daily operating procedures. However, fulfillment of these responsibilities

cannot and will not ensure any specific individual's health and safety. Each individual is personally responsible for avoiding risk and preventing injuries to themselves before, during, and after study or employment at Carthage College.

It is important to be aware and well informed. Like many health-related issues, prevention is much easier and less expensive than cures. Take time to read the available information concerning hearing, vocal, and musculoskeletal health available on the Carthage "my carthage" portal, in the Music Groups page.

This syllabus is subject to change with appropriate notice.

Be supportive of and courteous to your colleagues, especially when your colleague is on the podium. The Golden Rule very much applies here.

Above all, behave professionally to be treated professionally.

Calendar (Fall 2021)

MUS 2180 Basic Conducting

September

Introduction, Movement Techniques
Chapters 1-4 due, In Class Practice of Technique
Terms Exam
Chapters 1-4 Practica
Chapter 1-4 Practica,
5 Due/lecture-demo, Practice of Technique
Chapter 5 Practica

October

Chapter 5 Practica
Mid Term Examination/Observation 1 due
Chapters 6 Due/Demonstration, Practice of
Technique
Chapter 6 Practica
Chapters 7 due/Demonstration, Practice of
Technique
Chapter 7 Practica

November/December

Chapter 8-9 Due, Practice of Technique
Chapter 8-9 Practica
Final Conducting Project Performances
Observation 2 due

- Note that this is a *general* schedule, subject to change. Specific assignments and "topic" schedules will be given throughout the semester.