Course Name: Instrumental Conducting & Arranging (and Lab)

Course Webpage: www.csun.edu/~stoffel/364

Course Information:
- Spring Semester 2018: Tu/Th, 10:00–11:40 AM
- Preparatory: MUS 212/L
- 3 Units: Cypress Hall 159
- Corequisite: MUS 364L
- Instructor: Dr. Lawrence Stoffel, E-mail: stoffel@csun.edu
- Office: CY 210, Phone: (818) 677-3160
- Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays, 1:30–3:00 PM
- and by appointment
- and drop-in’s are always welcomed when the door is open!
- “In-person is better than E-mail or telephone.”

Course Description:
“Development of basic to advanced conducting skills with instrumental focus. For preparation of the conductor and the public-school music teacher. Topics include baton, rehearsal, score study techniques, error detection and resultant strategies. Also, principles of arranging for middle- and high-school level ensembles, with practical application.” (from the CSUN University Catalog 2017–2018). This course focuses upon (1) development of baton technique and non-verbal communication, and (2) score study and interpretation.

Student Learning Outcomes:
The primary objectives of this course are to enable students: (1) to develop gestures which effectively convey a sense of musical meaning; (2) to develop skills to interpret musical scores; (3) to develop the ability to self-critique one’s own conducting; (4) to demonstrate competence using standard musical notation software learned in MUS 191; and (5) to be competent in arranging simple scores for a variety of instrumental ensembles.

Textbooks:
Required:
- Labuta, Joseph (2010). Basic Conducting Techniques (6th ed.). Englewood, NJ: Prentice Hall. [ISBN 0-13-601193-4]. The 5th edition of this book is also acceptable. Note Well: A loaner book will be made available to each student, but failing to return the book in good condition at the end of the semester will have a serious detriment to your course grade. This textbook is also on reserve in Oviatt Library.
- 1 pre-selected school concert band score (you will purchase this score)

Recommended for the ambitious conducting student (on reserve in Oviatt Library):

Required Materials:
- SD Card (recommended 2–4 GB capacity), “Secure Digital Card”
  This is the most valuable tool toward your development in this course. Each time you conduct this semester, you will be video recorded. At the end of this semester, you will have a unique record of your conducting development. Note well: Not having your SD Card at for any assignment will result in forfeiture of that conducting time in front of the ensemble. Use a dedicated SD Card for this class; do not keep other files on this card.
- instrument
  The class is the “ensemble” that you will conduct for most assignments. Exact instrumentation will be determined by Dr. Stoffel to best serve the needs of the students in the class.
- baton
  Your baton must be of high quality. Batons will not be used until later in the course, and you will be given instructions regarding the proper method of selecting a baton. Dr. Stoffel must inspect and approve a baton already owned by a student.
- music stand
The grade that you earn on each formal conducting project will be adjusted by your class attendance and participation for every day of that particular project. For example:

If you earned a 96 on a conducting project and you were at every class meeting for that project (that is, your were there for 100% of the time), then your final grade would be 96 (that is, \(96 \times 100\% = 96\)).

If you were only at four out of the five class days for that project (that is, your were there for 80% of the time), then your final project grade would be 77 (96 \(\times 80\% = 76.8\)).

**Grading Scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93–100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90–92</td>
<td>A–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87–89</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83–86</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80–82</td>
<td>B–</td>
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<tr>
<td>77–79</td>
<td>C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73–76</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61–69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0–60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Attendance as it Relates to Your Learning and Development**

Much like an ensemble course, conducting class operates as a cooperative-learning class. The success of your learning in this class is dependent upon every student’s participation each day in class.

- The time that you spend on the podium is of utmost importance in this course. But your development as a conductor will be greatly enhanced if you also use the time that you are not on the podium as valuable “learning time.” It is common for students to feel as though they are learning as much, if not more, while watching and evaluating their peers than while actually on the podium.
- Successful students in this course attend all class meetings and participate productively. Professional conduct dictates that all students should arrive to the classroom with sufficient time to begin on time. Never detract from one of your peer’s podium-time by either arriving late or not being ready to play at the class start time.
- Absences and tardies have a detrimental effect on the final grade earned:

  The grade that you earn on each formal conducting project will be adjusted by your class attendance and participation for every day of that particular project. For example:

  If you earned a 96 on a conducting project and you were at every class meeting for that project (that is, your were there for 100% of the time), then your final grade would be 96 (that is, \(96 \times 100\% = 96\)).
  If you were only at four out of the five class days for that project (that is, your were there for 80% of the time), then your final project grade would be 77 (96 \(\times 80\% = 76.8\)).

- Written assignments will be accepted up to one week past the due date, however, the grade earned on any written assignment will be lowered by 9% for each school day that the assignment is late.
- Absence due to serious illness or other warranted personal matter may be excused only with written documentation (e.g., a doctor’s verification, or court summons). This verification must be given to Dr. Stoffel at the first class upon your return.

**Academic Dishonesty**

The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university and the California State University system. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a campus is listed in Section 41301, Title 5, California Code of Regulations, as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended, or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense and diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend upon the integrity of the campus programs. Such dishonesty includes: Cheating, Fabrication, Facilitating Academic Dishonesty, and Plagiarism. Please see the current university catalog for a complete description of Academic Dishonesty and its consequences: www.csun.edu/catalog/policies/academic-dishonesty/.

**Video Recordings**

You will be recorded each time you practice in front of the class and each time you are assessed for a project. This video recording is only for your personal use — for growth and development over the course of the semester. However, because your classmates are included in these recordings and because of possible copyright implications, no video from this class may be publically shared or distributed. Note well: No permission is given by the instructor to publically post a video recording made in this class (such as on YouTube or social media).
Classroom Conduct
In order to create a classroom environment which encourages creativity and critical thinking, courteous and encouraging conduct is expected from all students at all times — which includes attentive listening, respectful language, and openness to consider new ideas or opinions. Contribute to class discussions in an orderly manner, ask pertinent questions, taking care not to dominate any discussion, nor talk over each other or the instructor. Never employ rudeness, mean spiritedness, personal attacks, harassment, or abuse in class discussions. The use of mobile phones, engaging with social media, reading of newspapers or other non-class materials, or web surfing are never appropriate in class. Furthermore, students are expected to perform on their instruments at a consistently musical and technically proficient level.

Physical Contact
The study of conducting necessitates occasional, limited physical contact between instructor and student. The instructor will always be respectful and observant to each student’s level of comfort in class. A student with any questions or concerns about physical contact during lessons and laboratory assignments should discuss this matter with the instructor before the first project is assigned. If requested by a student, the instructor will employ alternative forms of instruction in lieu of physical contact.

Disability Resources and Educational Services
If you have a disability and need accommodations, please register with the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) office or the National Center on Deafness (NCOD). The DRES office is located in Bayramian Hall 110 and can be reached by phone at (818) 677-2684. NCOD is located in Jeanne Chisholm Hall and can be reached by phone at (818) 677-2054 and by videophone at (818) 677-4443. If you would like to discuss your need for accommodations, please also contact me to set up an appointment.

Individual Practice
The successful student will practice conducting daily. In addition to refining your conducting gestures for each of the conducting projects, your daily individual practice time should include a balance of basic movement exercises along with singing and/or keyboard realization of the current conducting project. Each project should be prepared to a level of memorization.

Applied Technology
• an active, working CSUN E-mail account with the ability to send and receive attached files (You will be expected to check your E-mail each weekday.)
• video recording documenting your conducting skill
• musical notation software (such as Finale or Sibelius)

Notation Software
Students are expected to be proficient in Finale, Sibelius, or other musical notation software by merit of passing MUS 191, a lower division course required of all music majors at CSUN.

CSUN Department of Music Undergraduate Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs):
1. Demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music, through sight-reading, basic keyboard proficiency, and musical analysis.
2. Perform standard repertoire appropriate to their performance area, as individuals, members of ensembles, and/or conductors.
3. Demonstrate a working knowledge of music history within their area of specialization and an acquaintance with the history, cultural background, and repertories beyond that area, including a wide selection of Western and world music literature.
4. Demonstrate a working knowledge of music technology and its application to their area of specialization.
5. Develop pedagogical and/or clinical skills fundamental to their area of specialization for application across a variety of music and music-related professions.
6. Demonstrate professional competence in the execution of business processes and practices commonly employed within their area of specialization.
Course Assignments and Projects:

1. Conducting Projects:

These nine projects are the video assignments for the semester.

Please note: The Labuta numbers refer to the 5th edition book. Double-check for the correct Labuta number if you are using a different edition.

- **Posture Check** (Week 3*)
  (no music example used)

- **Project #1** (Weeks 4–6*)
  Labuta 2-5  Meyerbeer

- **Project #2** (Weeks 7–8*)
  Labuta 2-6  Haydn

- **Project #3** (Week 9*)
  choose either:
  Labuta 3-1  Verdi
  Labuta 3-8  traditional

- **Project #4** (Week 11*)
  prepare both:
  Labuta 4-2  Handel
  Labuta 4-3  Schubert

- **Project #5** (Weeks 12–14*)
  Labuta M-18  traditional

- **Project #6** (Week 15 & Final Exam*)
  prepare both:
  Labuta 10-2  Grainger
  Labuta M-5  Schubert

- **Project #7** (Week 15 & Final Exam*)
  prepare both:
  Labuta 10-7  Borodin
  Labuta 10-8  Blazhevich

- **Project #8** (Weeks 14–15*)
  band composition
  with the CSUN Wind Symphony

Remember, your success in the class is largely dependent upon active participation:
- Bring your SD Card on the first day of each project.
- Bring your instrument, Labuta book, and music stand every day for each project’s dates.

2. Concert Attendance:

Attend and report on two of the following four music department’s VPAC concerts.
- Friday, March 16th, Jazz “A” Band, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, May 6th, CSUN Symphony & Youth Philharmonic Gala Collaboration, 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, May 9th, Media Comp & Studio Ensemble, 7:30 PM
- Thursday, May 10th, Northridge Singers/CSUN Symphony, 7:30 PM

3. Written Projects:

- assigned throughout the semester

4. Arranging Projects:

- assigned throughout the semester

5. Final Exam

- Tuesday, May 15th, 10:15 AM–12:15 PM

* These weeks are approximate. Some variance is likely depending on the pace of progress by the whole class.