

# INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING SYLLABUS

## MUSI 226-02: CONDUCTING I

### FALL 2017

**Classroom:** SOM Rm. 201  
**Meeting Times:** Tuesday & Thursday: 8:00am – 9:20am

<b>Instructor:</b> Jacob Sustaita <b>Office:</b> Room 220F, GPAC <b>Office Hours:</b> By appointment / via email	<b>Phone:</b> (936) 294-1370 <b>Email:</b> jxs115@shsu.edu
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#### Required Materials

- **Recording Device/SD Card:** Video homework assignments will be recorded and uploaded. Detailed information will be provided for each assignment.
- **Instrument:** The class will create an ensemble that each student will conduct. Each student is required to play on “Class Conducting Days” unless otherwise specified by the instructor.
- **Baton:** Any standard conducting baton between 12-14 inches will work for class.
- **Binder:** 1-1.5”.
- **Metronome:** Smart phone metronome will work as long as they can be clearly heard.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** *The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Some variance is likely depending on the pace of progress by the entire class.*

<b>Th Aug 24</b>	Course Introduction, Role of Conductor, Body and Gesture
<b>T Aug 29</b>	Alignment, Relaxation, Breathe, Posture
<b>Th Aug 31</b>	Saito: Beat, Pattern, Accel, Decel, Prep
<b>T Sept 5</b>	Malko Exercises, Beat Patterns, Fast and Slow Tempos
<b>Th Sept 7</b>	Wrist Motions, Stopping, Releasing
<b>T Sept 12</b>	Legato & Staccato
<b>Th Sept 14</b>	Legato & Staccato
<b>T Sept 19</b>	In-Class Conducting
<b>Th Sept 21</b>	In-Class Conducting
<b>T Sept 26</b>	Preparatory Gestures, Fermatas
<b>Th Sept 28</b>	Subdividing, Ritardando, Accelerando
<b>T Oct 3</b>	Score Study
<b>Th Oct 5</b>	Review

# INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING

## FALL 2017 SEMESTER SYLLABUS (continued)

<b>T Oct 10</b>	Baton Basics 1
<b>Th Oct 12</b>	Baton Basics 2
<b>T Oct 17</b>	Fundamentals With Baton
<b>Th Oct 19</b>	Left Hand Gestures, Cueing
<b>T Oct 24</b>	Psychological & Class Conducting
<b>Th Oct 26</b>	Psychological & Class Conducting
<b>T Oct 31</b>	Mixed Meter
<b>Th Nov 2</b>	Mixed Meter
<b>T Nov 7</b>	Legato & Staccato
<b>Th Nov 9</b>	Rit. & Accel., Subdivision, Syncopations
<b>T Nov 14</b>	Review
<b>Th Nov 16</b>	Review
<b>T Nov 21</b>	Class Conducting
<b>Th Nov 23</b>	NO CLASS (Happy Thanksgiving)
<b>T Nov 28</b>	Final Conducting Assessment
<b>Th Nov 30</b>	Final Conducting Assessment

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Students will demonstrate proper conducting posture.
- B. Students will demonstrate effective use of beating.
- C. The following techniques will be the primary sources for the proper development of conducting gesture, baton technique, non-verbal communication, score-study, and musical interpretation.
  - a. Saito Conducting Method
  - b. Malko Conducting/Body Exercises
  - c. Laban Body Movement and Conducting Gesture
  - d. Musin Technique
  - e. Rodolph Technique (Legato, Staccato, Tenuto, Marcato, Non Expressive)
  - f. Fluency in preparatory gestures, legato and staccato styles, various beat patterns, facial expressions
  - g. Techniques for subdividing, *ritardandos*, *accelerandos*
- D. Students will develop their abilities to score-study while refining their basic skills of musicianship (rhythm, pitch, harmony, form)

**CLASS ORCHESTRA CONDUCTING:** All students will play in the class ensemble. Group chamber ensembles will be assigned for video homework assignments. Scores used for in class conducting should be marked with harmonic and phrasal analysis (based on the students current knowledge).

# **INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING**

## **FALL 2017 SEMESTER SYLLABUS (continued)**

**PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDUCTING:** Composition requirements will be handed out in class.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** Must be double-spaced, typed with a standard 1" margin (top, bottom, left, and right), and a standard font.

### **GRADING POLICY:**

30%	Homework Assignments, and Attendance
30%	Midterm & Final Exam
40%	Class Conducting, Daily Participation

### **ABSENCES:**

Like an ensemble course, conducting class operates as a cooperative-learning environment. The success of your development as a conductor is dependent upon every student's participation in every class.

Absence due to illness or emergency will be considered excused with written documentation. Students are permitted 1 unexcused absence. After the first unexcused absence, the student's grade will drop by half a letter grade. 2 tardies will be considered 1 unexcused absence. ABSENCES AND TARDIES HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON FINAL GRADES.

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

Students will have multiple in-class conducting assignments throughout the semester. Students must be prepared for each assignment. NO MAKE-UP conducting assignments will be available unless a valid excused absence is granted. Homework assignment will be accepted for partial credit up to 1 week past the due date.

### **CLASSROOM CONDUCT:**

In order to create a classroom environment that encourages critical thinking and creativity, courteous and encouraging conduct is expected from all students at all times. This includes attentive listening, respectful language, and a willingness to consider new ideas or opinions. All students are expected to participate in class discussions. The use of electronic devices not needed for class participation, reading materials other than class materials, or work for another class are never appropriate in class.

### **PHYSICAL CONTACT:**

The study of conducting necessitates occasional, limited physical contact between instructor and student. The instructor will always be respectful and observant of each student's comfort level. A student with any questions or concerns should discuss this matter with the instructor prior to class.

### **INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE:**

A successful student will practice conducting daily. In addition to refining and developing your conducting gestures, your daily practice should include basic movement exercises and musicianship building.

## **INSTRUMENTAL CONDUCTING**

### **FALL 2017 SEMESTER SYLLABUS (continued)**

#### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/811006.pdf>

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

The Faculty Handbook states that “the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is, simply, above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. **Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.** Furthermore, it is expected that the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.”

Should such a situation be found to exist, students would immediately be reported and disciplinary proceedings would be initiated.

#### **PROPER CLASSROOM DEMEANOR/RULES OF CONDUCT:**

“Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute all cellular phones and/or pagers before class begins. **Students are prohibited from eating in class (except on specified occasions), using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction.** Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.”