

# CONDUCTING II — MUSI 4224 (Instrumental)

## SPRING 2018 SYLLABUS

Dr. Jacob Sustaita  
SOM Room 205  
T & TH 9:30–10:50am

Office Hours: By Appointment  
936-294-1370  
jxs115@shsu.edu

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Conducting II will cover intermediate and advanced level skills in conducting with a focus on conducting and rehearsing instrumental ensembles. Most topics will apply to both instrumental and choral conducting, however the course will focus on instrumental literature and ensembles. Topics will include advanced technical and expressive gestures, building musicianship and artistry, score study and preparation, rehearsal techniques, and professional development. Assignments will include written work based on professional development materials, readings, in-class conducting (individually and with an ensemble), video assignments, attendance quizzes, and exams. Students will regularly conduct an ensemble created by ALL the members of the class (singing and playing their instruments).

### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Metronome (phone app works); Baton; Binder; Video recording device; Instrument; 2 3-5 pound hand/wrist weight, tennis ball.

### RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRED MATERIALS:

3–5 lb kettle ball; various lengths bungee cords; bosu ball

### EXPECTATIONS:

- Class starts on time. No exceptions. It is unacceptable to start a rehearsal late, so don't do it here. Set up for this class will be minimal, but plan on arriving early to aid in set up for in-class ensemble. Everyone is expected to help.
- All written assignments must be proofread and contain minimal errors in punctuation and grammar. If there are too many errors, your paper may be returned, in which case you will have a chance to correct those errors, but it will lower your grade by one letter.
- Some of the things I will be saying to you will be subjective (i.e. my opinion on what is good and what isn't). *You are allowed to disagree.* However, you have to do it my way in class for the assignment *in order to pass the class.*
- You will have to *change* to pass this class. I will take you where you are at, and I will push you to improve. This will require a substantial shift in how you think about

conducting, preparing to conduct, and maybe even how you view yourself as a conductor. This can be difficult. If you resist the change, it is even harder.

- Sheet Music: You are expected to organize, mark, and maintain your own copies of all music handed out in class.
- Dress professionally when you are conducting in class. (Casual attire is acceptable for video assignments.)
- This class is designed to develop the mental and physical skill necessary to be an effective conductor and educator. As a result, practicing conducting is a crucial component of successfully completing the class. In order to get a good grade in the class, you should expect to do about 5 hours of conducting practice per week. This is in addition to the written assignments and readings.

## **GRADING POLICY:**

Assignments will be given either a letter grade (A=90–100, B=80–89, etc) or 100 for completion and 0 for failure to complete or turn in assignments. The instructor will inform you of the grading policy for each assignment. Assignments will be weighted according to difficulty, preparation time, and importance.

### **Make-up Assignments**

In-Class Conducting CANNOT be made up. Late video and written assignments will be lowered by one-half letter grade for each passing class meeting.

### **In-Class Conducting**

*You will be expected to perform (as a singer and instrumentalist) for your classmates on a regular basis.* Forgetting your instrument will lower your daily grade. Permission to sit-out must be approved by the instructor.

**NOTE ON SCORE MARKING** – One topic covered in class will include score study and score marking. As this topic is studied, you should mark your scores accordingly. A general harmonic analysis and phrasal analysis should be complete for any score you conduct in class.

30%	Daily Participation & Attendance
30%	Final Project
40%	In Class Conducting, Assignments, & Exams

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Students are permitted 2 absences for any reason. Each subsequent UNEXCUSED absence will lower your attendance grade by one letter grade. Absences due to illness or emergency will be considered excused. Exceptions will be made in extreme circumstances and will be determined by the instructor. Tardiness will impact your grade as well. 2 tardies will be considered 1 unexcused absence.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:** All written work should be typed, double-spaced, standard font, 1" margins (top, bottom, left, and right).

## COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE:

Th Jan 18	Introductions & <i>Review Fundamentals</i>
T Jan 23	<i>Boot Camp/Psychological</i> & Mixed Meter Conducting
Th Jan 25	Bio & Resume/ <i>Boot Camp</i> /Mixed Meter
T Jan 30	Mixed Meter/ <i>Accel &amp; Rit.</i> /Subdividing/Merging
Th Feb 1	Prep Beats <b>/BIO</b>
T Feb 6	Preps/Dynamics/Accents/Phrasing/Character
Th Feb 8	Cut-off/Fermata/ <i>Legato &amp; Staccato Boot Camp</i>
T Feb 13	<b>Mixed Meter Exam</b>
Th Feb 15	<b>TMEA – No Class</b>
T Feb 20	Subdividing & Merging/ <i>Legato Espressivo Boot Camp</i> / <b>Resume Draft</b>
Th Feb 22	In-Class Conducting <i>Barber Adagio</i>
T Feb 27	In-Class Conducting <i>Barber Adagio</i>
Th Mar 1	In-Class Conducting <i>Barber Adagio</i> /Transpositions
T Mar 6*	Review/Group Projects
Th Mar 8*	Group Projects/Conducting Bach <i>Chorales</i>
T Mar 13	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
Th Mar 15	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>
T Mar 20	<b>RESUME</b> /Psychological Conducting
Th Mar 22	Psychological Conducting
T Mar 27	<b>Group Presentations</b> (Great Conductors)
Th Mar 29	Intro. to <i>Fanfare for the Common Man</i> / <b>Cover Letter Drafts</b>
T Apr 3	In-Class Conducting Copland
Th Apr 5	In-Class Conducting Copland
T Apr 10	In-Class Conducting Copland
Th Apr 12	Review, Final Project Work
T Apr 17	<b>COVER LETTERS</b> /Musin Technique
Th Apr 19	Preps/Dynamics/Accents/Phrasing/Character
T Apr 24	INTERVIEWS
Th Apr 26	INTERVIEWS
T May 1	In-Class Conducting
Th May 3	In-Class Conducting

## DUE DATES:

JAN. 25	BIO Draft	MAR. 20	RESUME
FEB. 1	BIO	MAR. 27	Group Presentations
FEB. 13	Mixed Meter Exam	MAR. 29	C.L. Draft
FEB. 20	RESUME Draft	APR. 17	COVER LETTER

## 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 in the work in the SHSU Symphony, students would immediately be reported and disciplinary proceedings would be initiated.