

9-2013

## MUSI 336.01: Choral Conducting

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**CHORAL CONDUCTING MUSI 336-01: 2 CREDITS**

Syllabus FALL 2013

Schedule: MW 9:10-10:00am (Music 218)  
Instructor: Dr. David Edmonds  
Office: Mus 209  
Office hours: MW 10:10-11:00am; other times by appointment  
Office phone: (406) 243.6889  
Email: david.edmonds@mso.umt.edu

**PREREQUISITES**

Upper division standing in music is required unless a petition has been approved by the Faculty Executive Committee permitting a student to take the course prior to completing the UDRP. Students not majoring in music must receive permission from the instructor.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

1. "Conducting Rudiments/Music for Class Performance" Packet (handed out in class).

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS** (not required for any class readings or assignments)

1. Christine Ammer, *The A to Z of Foreign Musical Terms*, ECS Publishing (Boston, MA: 1989).
2. James C. McKinney, *The Diagnosis and Correction of Vocal Faults*, Waveland Press (2005).
3. Barbara Conable, *The Structures and Movement of Breathing: A Primer for Choirs and Choruses*, GIA Publications, Inc. (Chicago: 2000).

**REQUIRED MATERIALS**

1. Colored pencils (red, blue, yellow are the minimum colors required)
2. 3-ring binder (any color; 1/2 inch or 1 inch recommended)
3. Baton:  
-Option #1: [www.glcustombatons.com](http://www.glcustombatons.com). Dr. Smart suggests Maestro, Staccato, and Legato style handles and either 12.5, 13.5, or 14.5" length (\$35-60). **Last day to order:** Wed 8/28/13  
-Option #2: For a cheaper alternative I suggest: Mollard 12" any color (You can get this on Amazon.com for \$20-\$25).
4. Metronome (You'll want one that has a 'tap tempo' feature. Phone apps are fine.)
5. A computer with internet access. I will also send an email link for shared folders with assignments and class information.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This one semester course is designed as an introduction to the art of conducting. Much of the material addressed is applicable to conducting any kind of musical group. As a music educator, conducting is arguably the most important skill one can possess. Like learning an instrument, conducting will require specific and focused practice in order for you to see improvement. The physical act of conducting needs to become something that you can accomplish without having to think about what you're doing while you're doing it. To the greatest degree possible, it must become a subconscious act.

*If you have to watch your feet you're not really dancing.*

-anonymous

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main focus of this class will be three-fold: (1) How to *prepare* for (2) how to *hear* and (3) how to *lead* a choir.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The student will...

...develop the necessary technical skills to lead a musical ensemble through the performance of

- rudimentary exercises and musical examples.
- ...increase his/her ability to detect musical errors in performing ensembles through careful preparation and analysis of conducting scores.
- ...gain an understanding of the common elements and organizational patterns of music through detailed preparation and analysis of scores, and will employ this understanding in the act of conducting.
- ...acquire an acquaintance with choral repertoire from several historical and stylistic periods through preparation, analysis and conducting.

## ATTENDANCE AND GRADING

The entire class serves as the ensemble and as such, the attendance of each individual is required at all times in order to give every conductor the greatest opportunities possible. In class conducting performances can not be made up. All 'paper' assignments are due at the beginning of the specified class unless otherwise indicated. Late work will be assessed a 10% penalty for each calendar day late the work is received, starting with the due date, if the assignment is not turned in at the specified time (example: an assignment due at the beginning of class Monday is late on Monday after class. Penalty would Mon=10%, Tues=20%, etc.). The final grade will be determined as follows:

### ASSIGNMENTS/POINTS BREAK DOWN

• Class Attendance/Music Terms to Know Quizzes:	17 @ 10pts ea	= 170
• Attendance at Performance Exams	9 @ 10pts ea	= 90
• Entrance Survey	1 @ 10pts ea	= 10
• Score Analysis Readings and Questions	1 @ 40pts ea	= 40
• Score Preparation Assignment 1	1 @ 100pts ea	= 100
• Music Example Analyses	8 @ 25pts ea	= 200
• Performance Exams I & II	2 @ 50pts ea	= 100
• Performance Exam III (in two parts)	1 @ 100pts ea	= 100
• Final Exam	1 @ 100pts ea	= 100
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= 910</b>

### Grading scale:

A 93-100%	C+	81%
A- 92%	C	73-80%
B+ 91	C-	72%
B 83-90%	D+	71%
B- 82%	D	63-70%
	D-	62%
	F	61% and below

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### WEEK 1

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- #1 Aug 26 (M) Class emails, Shared Online Folder  
*Handout* – Choral Conducting Packet  
**In class practice:** Introduction to the Saito method, Pattern independence exercises  
**Prepare for next class:** Saito exercises, Entrance Survey (due next class meeting)
- #2 Aug 28 (W) **DUE:** Entrance Survey  
**In class practice:** Saito exercises, pattern independence exercises, Score Analysis  
**Prepare for next class:** Saito exercises, pattern independence exercises, Score Analysis Readings and Questions, Score Preparation Assignment 1 (Due 9/9)

**WEEK 2**

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-- Sept 2 (M) Labor Day – No Classes

#3 Sept 4 (W) Musical Terms to Know (MTK) – GROUP A  
**In class practice:** Saito, pattern independence, Score preparation questions, Rudiment 1  
**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 1, Score Preparation Assignment 1

**WEEK 3**

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#4 Sept 9 (M) MTK – GROUP A (2)  
**DUE:** Score Preparation Assignment 1  
**In class practice:** Saito exercises, Rudiment 1, *Ubi Caritas*  
**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 1, *Ubi Caritas*

#5 Sept 11 (W) MTK – GROUP B  
**In class practice:** Rudiment 1, *Ubi Caritas*, Rudiment 2  
**Prepare for next class:** *Ubi Caritas*, Rudiment 2

**WEEK 4**

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#6 Sept 16 (M) MTK – GROUP B (2)  
**In class practice:** Score Preparation Assignment 1 Review, Rudiment 1, *Ubi Caritas*, Rudiment 2, *Dona Nobis Pacem*  
**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 2, *Dona Nobis Pacem*

#7 Sept 18 (W) MTK – GROUP C  
**In class practice:** Rudiment 2, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, *Daemon*  
**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 2, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, *Daemon*

**WEEK 5**

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#8 Sept 23 (M) MTK – GROUP C (2)  
**In class practice:** Rudiment 2, *Dona Nobis*, *Daemon*, Rudiment 3  
**Prepare for next class:** *Dona Nobis*, *Daemon*, Rudiment 3

#9 Sept 25 (W) MTK – GROUP D  
**In class practice:** Rudiment 3, *Dona Nobis*, *Daemon*, *Beatus Vir*  
**Prepare for next class:** *Beatus Vir*,

**WEEK 6**

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#10 Sept 30 (M) MTK – GROUP D (2)  
**In class practice:** Rudiments 1-3, *Daemon*, *Beatus Vir*  
**Prepare for next class:** Rudiments 1-3 and corresponding music examples

#11 Oct 2 (W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 1:** Rudiments 1-3 and corresponding music examples

**WEEK 7**

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#12 Oct 7 (M) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 1:** Rudiments 1-3 and corresponding music examples

#13 Oct 9 (W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 1:** Rudiments 1-3 and corresponding music examples  
**DUE:** Score Analyses for music examples corresponding to rudiments 1-3

**In class practice:** Rudiment 4, *Il est bel et bon*

**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 4, *Il est bel et bon*

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**WEEK 8**

#14 Oct 14 (M) MTK – GROUP E

**In class practice:** Rudiment 4, *Il est bel et bon*, Rudiment 5

**Prepare for next class:** *Il est bel et bon*, Rudiment 5, *Ubi Caritas*

-- Oct 16 (W) Montana MMEA Convention @ Bozeman – NO CLASS

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**WEEK 9**

#15 Oct 21 (M) MTK – GROUP E (2)

**In class practice:** *Il est bel et bon*, Rudiment 5, *Ubi Caritas*, *Ave Verum Corpus*

**Prepare for next class:** Rudiment 5, *Ave Verum Corpus*, Rudiment 6

#16 Oct 23 (W) MTK – GROUP F

**In class practice:** *Ubi Caritas*, *Ave Verum Corpus*, Rudiment 6

**Prepare for next class:** Rudiments 6, *Sure On This Shining Night*

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**WEEK 10**

#17 Oct 28 (M) MTK – GROUP F (2)

**In class practice:** Rudiment 6, *Ave Verum Corpus*, *Sure On This Shining Night*

**Prepare for next class:** *Sure On This Shining Night*, *Salve Regina*

#18 Oct 30 (W) MTK – GROUP G

**In class practice:** *Sure On This Shining Night*, *Salve Regina*

**Prepare for next class:** Rudiments 4-6 and corresponding music examples

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**WEEK 11**

#19 Nov 4 (M) MTK – GROUP G (2)

**In class practice:** Rudiments 4-6 and corresponding music examples

#20 Nov 6 (W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 2:** Rudiments 4-6 and corresponding music examples

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**WEEK 12**

-- Nov 11 (M) Veteran's Day – NO CLASSES

#21 Nov 13 (W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 2:** Rudiments 4-6 and corresponding music examples

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**WEEK 13**

- #22 Nov 18(M) Edmonds @ Kalispell AA Festival – NO CLASSES
- Nov 20(W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 2:** Rudiments 4-6 and corresponding music examples  
**DUE:** Score Analyses for music examples corresponding to rudiments 4-6  
**Prepare for next class:** Error detection

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**WEEK 14**

- #23 Nov 25(M) MTK – GROUP H  
**In class practice:** Error detection  
**Prepare for next class:** Error detection, Final Exam
- Nov 27(W) Thanksgiving Holiday – NO CLASSES

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**WEEK 15**

- #24 Dec 2 (M) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 3:** Error detection (Part I individual times, Part II in class)
- #25 Dec 4 (W) **PERFORMANCE EXAM 3:** Error detection (Part I individual times, Part II in class)  
**Prepare for next class:** Final
- FINAL Dec 12 (R) 8:00am – 10:00am  
MTK – ALL GROUPS  
**FINAL EXAM:** Conduct the excerpt/piece of your choice from the following list:  
*Ubi Caritas, Il est bel et bon, Ave Verum Corpus, Salve Regina*

**Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code**

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review at: [http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student\\_conduct.php](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php)

**Information Concerning Reasonable Modifications**

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <http://www.umt.edu/disability>