MUS 271: BASIC CONDUCTING
Spring 2018
Class Meeting Days: Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am – 9:10am (Room PH53)

This course will introduce basic conducting techniques including: baton technique, meter patterns, cueing and expressive gestures, score reading/interpretation and preparation, and rehearsal techniques. There will be instrumental and vocal conducting opportunities for all students regardless of major instrument.

Instructor
PJ Gatch, III ……………Patterson Hall, Music Department 51A, gatchiii@aol.com, Ext. 6266, Cellular: 412.551.0145

Scope of Course
MUS 271 is intended for the beginning conducting student. Its sequels are MUS-272R “Choral Conducting” and MUS-273 “Instrumental Conducting.”

Required Text
Basic Conducting (Fifth or Sixth Edition)……………………………………………………………………………………………. Joseph A. Labuta

Course Topics
| Posture, Presence, and Appearance | Dynamic and Expression |
| Preparatory Gestures | Cuing Gestures |
| Meter/Beat Patterns | Score Study |
| Tempo control and Manipulation | Rehearsal Techniques |
| Articulations | Stylistic Considerations |
| | Choral and Instrumental |
| | Repertoire |

Learning Outcomes
Students will demonstrate competencies in the following areas.
1. Students will learn and demonstrate the proper posture, attitude, and bearing expected of music directors. Students will be expected to show organization and a high level of preparedness when at the podium.

2. Students will learn and demonstrate preparatory gestures appropriate to the literature including eye contact, breathing, and gesture.

3. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency with regular, asymmetric, and mixed metered conducting patterns.

4. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency with tempo maintenance and control of tempo changes.

5. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency with many articulation gestures including legato, staccato, accented, marcato, and tenuto.

6. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency with appropriate dynamic and expressive gestures consistent with authenticity of interpretation.

7. Students will learn and demonstrate proficiency with various cueing gestures.

8. Students will analyze all scores to be conducted, indicating rehearsal and performance elements such as tempo, meter, dynamic and expression, phrasing, cueing, balance, prominent voice(s), accompanying voice(s), and harmony.

9. Students will employ rehearsal techniques, build and develop a vocabulary, to address performance desires and nuances.

10. Students will engage in preparing, rehearsing, and conducting repertoire for both instrumental and choral ensembles.
Basic Conducting Course Syllabus

Assignments and Grade Weighting

Weekly Conducting Assignments .............................................................. 12.5%
Weekly Participation .................................................................................. 12.5%
Exam One ..................................................................................................... 12.5%
Exam Two (Midterm Exam) ........................................................................ 12.5%
Exam Three .................................................................................................. 12.5%
Exam Four (Final Exam) ............................................................................. 12.5%
Midterm Project ........................................................................................... 12.5%
Attendance .................................................................................................. 12.5%

Grading

The Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog clearly states that all students working toward a major in music under the Bachelor of Music degree must make a minimum letter grade of 'B-' in order for MUS-271 to count toward graduation. There will be no exceptions.

Grading Scale

A ................. 94–100%  B .................. 84–86.99%  C .................... 70–76.99%
B+ ................. 87–89.99%  C+ ............... 77–79.99%  F .................... 0–59.99%

Course Materials


- Major instrument (preferred). Secondary instrument (ok).

Course Work

Active participation appropriate to the education profession is required in this course—including on-time completion of all assignments, an inquisitive and creative approach to class activities, and a professional attitude and appearance. All written work must be done in a neat and timely manner, consistently exhibiting correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and syntax. Computer word-processing is expected for all written work.

Please note: All assignments—unless otherwise specified by the instructor—are to be completed and submitted by each individual student. While the exchange of ideas and the discussion of assignments is a typical and often healthy part of the collegiate learning experience, it is expected that submitted work will be that of the individual student.

Weekly Conducting Assignments Unless otherwise indicated students are responsible for preparing the following pieces both as an ensemble member and conductor:

Week One:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Edition</th>
<th>Pages to Read</th>
<th>Excerpts</th>
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Concepts: Preparatory Beats, regular meter patterns, articulations, and internal cut-offs
# Course Syllabus

## Basic Conducting

Spring 2018

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## Week Two:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Edition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>109-130</td>
<td>2-1, 2-2, 2-3, *2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, *2-10, *2-11, 2-12, and *2-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>117-128</td>
<td>*2-1, 2-2, 2-3, *2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-9, *2-10, *2-11, 2-12, and *2-14</td>
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**Concepts:** Previous concepts, first exam

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## Weeks Three and Four:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>23-30, 132-147, 150-158</td>
<td>*3-1, *3-2, 3-3, *3-5, *3-6, 3-7, *3-8, *3-9, and *3-11; 4-1, *4-2, 4-3, *4-4, and *4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>28-35, 130-139, 142-146</td>
<td>*3-1, *3-2, 3-3, *3-5, *3-6, 3-7, *3-8, *3-9, and *3-11; 4-1, *4-2, 4-3, *4-4, and *4-5</td>
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**Concepts:** Previous Concepts, preparations and releases for all beats, fractional beat preparations, and fermatas

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## Week Five:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>37-44, 198-215</td>
<td>*7-1, 7-2, 7-4, *7-5, and 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>42-49, 172-180</td>
<td>*7-1, 7-2, 7-4, *7-5, and 7-9</td>
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**Supplement:** J.S. Bach, *Break Forth O Beautiful Heavenly Light*

**Concepts:** Previous concepts, Second Exam/Midterm, midterm presentations

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## Weeks Six and Seven:

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<tr>
<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>31-36, 159-171, 178-191</td>
<td>*5-1, *5-2, 5-3, *5-4, 5-5, *5-6, and 5-7; *6-1, 6-2, 6-4, *6-5, and *6-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>36-41, 148-154, 160-167</td>
<td>*5-1, *5-2, 5-3, *5-4, 5-5, *5-6, and 5-7; *6-1, 6-2, 6-4, *6-5, and *6-7</td>
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**Concepts:** Previous concepts, subdivided meters, expressive conducting

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## Week Eight:

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<tr>
<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>45-46, 225-231</td>
<td>8-1, 8-2, 8-4</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>50-51, 186-189</td>
<td>8-1, 8-2, 8-4</td>
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**Supplement:** Mozart, *Gran Partita, Adagio*, and J.S. Bach, *Air*

**Concepts:** Previous concepts, refinement of left hand gestures

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## Week Nine:

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**Concepts:** Previous concepts

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## Week Ten:

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<td>5th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>57-61, 269-309</td>
<td>10-1, *10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-6, 10-7, 10-11, 10-12, (10-13), (10-14), (10-15), 10-17, and (10-18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Ed. Labuta</td>
<td>62-66, 209-229</td>
<td>10-1, *10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-6, 10-7, 10-11, 10-12, (10-13), (10-14), (10-15), 10-17, and (10-18)</td>
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**Concepts:** Previous concepts, asymmetric and mixed meters
Week Eleven:

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**Concepts:** Previous concepts, tempo changes, accompanying, and metric modulations

Weeks Twelve, Thirteen, and Fourteen:

**Concepts:** Previous concepts, prepare for Exam Four (Final Exam), and Conduct Exam Four (Final Exam)

* Indicates likely test pieces.

**Weekly Participation** Unless otherwise indicated students are expected to have their instrument at every class. Students are expected to have all excerpts (as outlined above) reasonably prepared. Students are expected to frequently give objective criticism to conductors.

**Exam One** Pieces for exam one will be announced at least two classes before the exam and may consist of pieces already played in class. The rubric for exam one is as follows: presence/appearance, score prep, prep. gestures, beat pattern, dynamic/expression, and rehearsal.

**Exam Two (Midterm Exam)** Pieces for exam one will be announced at least two classes before the exam and may consist of pieces already played in class. The rubric for exam one is as follows: presence/appearance, beat pattern, dynamic/expression, fermatas, score prep., rehearsal.

**Exam Three** Pieces for exam one will be announced at least two classes before the exam and may consist of pieces already played in class. The rubric for exam one is as follows: presence/appearance, score prep, beat pattern, dynamic/expression, cueing, and rehearsal.

**Exam Four (Final Exam)** Pieces for exam one will be announced at least two classes before the exam and may consist of pieces already played in class. The rubric for exam one is as follows: presence/appearance, preps., beat pattern, cueing, expression/dynamic and tempo control, score prep, and rehearsal.

**Projects**

**Final Project #1 Part 1:** Students will create a program of 1.5 – 2 hours of music. There are no limits to skill level, personnel, venue, or resources. Music choice may be of any genre but must require a conductor and should consist of your particular interests or personal favorites. Due by the second fourth class of the semester.

**Final Project #2 Part 2:** Students will write program notes for the music selected in Part 1. This should be 1500 to 2000 words. Due by the final class of this semester.

**Final Project #2** Students are to choose a conductor write a brief biography, reason(s) why composer was chosen, provide a video sample of chosen conductor, and indicate two to three moments that demonstrates a particular strength or weakness. Due by the final class of this semester.

**Class Attendance and Excused Absences**

Regular class attendance is essential if students are to realize the full benefits of a college education. Accordingly, Westminster students are expected to attend all classes, unless specifically excused for some valid reason. Although each individual instructor may specify what constitutes a valid excuse, in general excused absences are allowed only for the following reasons:

1. Course-related field trips.
2. Illness that requires confinement to bed on physician’s orders or confinement in a hospital.
3. Death or serious illness in the immediate family.
4. Appearance in court.
5. Co-curricular and extracurricular activities recognized and/or sponsored by the College.

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1 **Class Attendance and Excused Absences** is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog.
Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities, since these functions are often closely tied in to their professional preparation. Students who are involved in extracurricular or co-curricular activities at Westminster College must make this known to their professors before the end of the add period of each semester, particularly if such participation is anticipated to require them to be off campus at specific times. Excused absences do not excuse a student from completing the work that is missed. When possible, students should complete the assigned work in advance, or at such time as the professor specifies. It is the student’s responsibility to apprise all appropriate professors of off-campus involvement(s). With the professor’s knowledge of the student’s upcoming absences, conflicts should be minimized. The Office of Student Affairs will be notified whenever excessive absences occur. Where problems are identified which cannot be resolved by the faculty member and the student, a resolution will be made by the dean of the College.

**ATTENDANCE IS MANDITORY AT ALL CLASSES.**

Being late to class will affect your final grade as follows: -2% of your attendance grade for each occurrence. Being more than 10 minutes late will result in an unexcused absence.

The instructor of this course will allow one and only one unexcused absence. This unexcused absence will not affect your attendance grade.

A second unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade to 95%. A third unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade to 80%. A fourth unexcused absence will lower your attendance grade to 60%. A fifth unexcused absence result in automatic failure of the course.

An excused absence will be recorded if one (or more) of the following conditions occur:

- Serious illness (Hard copy or email from a physician’s office is required.)
- Jury duty (Hard copy or email from court official required.)
- Serious personal circumstance.

It is not the instructor’s responsibility to make phone calls or emails to determine a student’s absence. Without documentation (illness, court duty) student’s absence will be recorded as unexcused.

**Students accept the sole responsibility of acquiring in-class notes, making up all missed work, demonstrations, and assignments due to any absence.**

In the case of excused absences the instructor will grant an extension of time to complete all necessary and unfinished work.

**Any assignment not submitted by the time and date due as announced by the instructor will result in a failing grade for that assignment. No make-ups. No exceptions.**

Class absences does not excuse the responsibility to meet assignment deadlines. In such a case, you should submit your completed work at an earlier time (directly to the instructor), or ask that another class member submit your work on your behalf.

**Turn all cell phones off during class.**

**Use of a laptop during class is permitted for taking notes for this class only.**

**Food or candy is not permitted in this class. There are no exceptions.**

Drinks are tolerated in class. Drinks should be in a spill proof container and should not in any way disrupt others in the class or the class itself. If a spill occurs it is your sole responsibility to completely clean all surfaces. Do not leave any beverage container(s) in the classroom.

Any disregard of the above will affect your grade.
Absences from Examinations

Absence from an announced examination results in a failing grade for the examination, unless suitable arrangements are made for a special examination. A student who seeks such a privilege should petition the instructor in writing prior to the scheduled examination date. If the instructor considers that the petition should be granted, then a note to the effect is added and the petition is presented to the dean of the College. The examination may be given only if the dean also approves the petition. In the case of athletic championship tournaments that fall during final week, it is the College’s policy to permit those who are approved to participate in these tournaments to reschedule their missed work. Instructors and the dean must be notified in advance of the conflict and students must arrange with their instructors a place and time to make up the work.

Academic Integrity

Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College. Academic dishonesty is a profound violation of this code of behavior. Outlined in the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog, page 70-74 are examples of and specific consequences for academic dishonesty at Westminster. The list of examples is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to provide an overview of the community’s common concerns. Students who are unsure as to whether specific behavior not listed here will constitute academic dishonesty should consult with their individual course instructors.

Information for Students with Disabilities

Westminster College is committed to providing services and support for students with physical, psychological, visual, hearing or learning disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. All students who seek accommodations for diagnosed disabilities should contact the director of the Office of Disability Resources for further information.

Class Calendar

Refer to Weekly Conducting Assignments for the class schedule. This schedule is provided as a courtesy. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule, assignments, and exams according to the unique pacing of each class. In the case of any adjustments to this syllabus the instructor will give ample time and information in class. The student is solely responsible for recording and meeting any adjustments.

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2 Absences from Examinations is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog.

3 Academic Integrity is copied verbatim from the Westminster College Undergraduate Catalog.