

# ***Instrumental Conducting***

## **Music 324 Syllabus**

***Prerequisite: Music 106***

**2 credits**

### **Autumn 2012**

Tuesday/Thursday - 8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Band Hall

#### ***Instructor***

Dr. Craig S. Young

Band Hall

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### **Course Description**

This course is centered upon conducting the concert band, orchestra, and various types of instrumental ensembles. Specific areas, such as cuing, baton patterns, musical markings, and score study will be examined.

### **Rationale**

It is imperative for all conductors to establish and develop basic conducting skills including baton technique, non-verbal communication, and the understanding of basic score study in order to be successful in either the educational or professional venues.

### **Objectives**

1. Students will begin developing the techniques necessary to effectively communicate their interpretations of music through gesture
2. Students will develop a basic understanding of the process for studying instrumental scores
3. Students will obtain a better understanding of the relationships between conductor and musician in an ensemble setting

### **Required Materials**

*Basic Conducting Technique*  
by Joseph Labuta (5th edition)

Conducting Baton

4-8 Gigabyte SD (Secure Digital) High Speed Card and Card Reader  
Instrument (for playing during Practicum Preparations and Practicum)

Metronome (not needed *in class*)

Swimming Apparel (For the Pool Session - See Schedule)

### **Course Activities**

Daily baton practice (this course requires practice!)  
Readings and assignments (see page 4 and 5)  
Video-taped practica  
Class demonstrations and discussions  
Written tests  
Evaluations from instructor(s), peers, and self

### **Attendance**

As conducting cannot be learned from a book, students are required to attend all classes. Absences not considered as an emergency by the instructor or approved prior to the day missed will result in a lowering of the final grade.

The class begins promptly at 8:00. While this may be an early hour, students are nonetheless expected to arrive on time and be *prepared to think*. Three tardies is equal to one absence.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the scale listed below. Pluses and minuses, while used in exams and practicum, will be dropped when determining the final grade.

96-100%= A (100)	83-84% = B- (84)	71-74% = D+ (73)
92-95 = A- (95)	80-82% = C+ (81)	67-70% = D (69)
88-91 = B+ (90)	77-79% = C (78)	0-66% = F (65)
85-87% = B (86)	75-76% = C- (76)	

### **Evaluation Criteria**

Class attendance/participation	10%
Assignments (self evaluations, worksheets, etc)	12%
Score Study Project	10%
Written Exams (Midterm 8%, Final 16%,)	24%
Conducting Practica (4 @ 6% each)	24%
Final Conducting Jury	20%

### **Practica**

There will be four practica, all of which will consist of the student conducting one or several excerpts chosen by the instructor. Classmates (with their instruments), guest instrumentalists, or a pianist or two will serve as the ensemble. Outside evaluators may be brought in during some practica for additional feedback.

### **Score Study Projects**

Each student will choose a score which is not being performed in class to study. Evidence of this study will be through a written compilation of the three steps of score study. Each student will present their individual composition to the class. (See page 4)

Each student will also provide written proof of score study done on the composition used in the Final Conducting Jury.

### **Self Evaluations**

Each student will complete a Self Evaluation from each of the four practica using their videotape and a provided form. These are generally due on the class following each practica.

### **Final Conducting Jury**

Each student will conduct a larger excerpt of a work chosen by the instructor for their Final Conducting Jury. The student will be responsible for preparing the score, rehearsing the ensemble, and conducting the composition. The Symphonic Winds will be used for this purpose.

### **Examinations**

There will be two written examinations: a midterm and a final. The midterm will consist of the identification of terms used in class or listed in the book (See Labuta "Glossary G"), transposition questions and problems, and material from lectures/demonstrations and from the readings. The final will be comprehensive of the entire semester.

### **Academic Integrity**

As stated in the 2012-2013 Mississippi College Undergraduate Catalog: "Mississippi College students are expected to be scrupulously honest. Dishonesty, such as cheating or plagiarism, or furnishing false information, including forgery, alteration or misuse of University documents, records or information will be regarded as a serious offense subject to severe penalty, including, but not limited to loss of credit and possible dismissal."