

ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
CHORAL CONDUCTING
MUSI 4131
SPRING 2022

Instructor: Dr. Eric Posada

Office: Carr EFA 284A

Office Hours: M-TH (10:00-12:00) & T-W (4:00-5:00)

Phone: 325-942-6035

Class Time: MWF 9:00-9:50 AM

Location: Carr EFA 295 (Choir Room)

Credits: 2.0

Email: eric.posada@angelo.edu

Course Description:

This is the second semester, specialized course designed for undergraduate students in choral music education. Students will examine the role and responsibilities of the conductor, analyze the relationship between gesture and sound, and refine and focus their fundamental conducting skills towards the choral vein. Topics discussed in this course include but are not limited to: conducting technique, musical terminology, score study, and expressive and effective conducting.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students will refine conducting techniques including: posture, basic patterns, preparatory gestures, dynamics, cuing, left hand independence, and musical expression.

Students will develop conducting techniques with and without the baton.

Students will demonstrate fundamentals of score study, including basic terminology.

Students will be able to critically examine their own, their peers, and professional conducting techniques.

TEXT AND MATERIALS:

Text: Hunsberger, Donald and Roy E Ernst. The Art of Conducting. New York: McGraw Hill Inc., 1992.

Baton – This is the original Mollard baton design, “P” series. Please select the length of baton based on your height. <https://mollard.com/shop/p-series-baton/> (Links to an external site.)

Metronome (this can be of your choosing; a free app will suffice)

Notebook for notes/handouts

GRADING POLICY:

Conducting excerpts 35%

Midterm and Final: 35%

Attendance: 20%

Conductor Observation Paper: 10%

Conducting Excerpts

I want to give you quality experiences in front of the ensemble. Thus, we will spend two weeks per piece. The goal is you conduct once, refine, and conduct a second time.

****You must learn the melody and other vocal parts so we create a "lab chorus" setting. Your grade will be affected by preparation for your own assignment, as well as being able to sing your part for your colleagues.**

Midterm and Final

In addition to the chapter excerpts, you will be asked to prepare larger musical examples for the midterm and final. The final may consist of one or two contrasting examples but is contingent upon time allotment. These excerpts will provide each of you the opportunity to conduct a larger body of literature in preparation for the second semester of conducting and "real life" expectations.

Attendance

Students are allowed one unexcused rehearsal absence per semester. Excused absences do not count against this one unexcused absence. Students must remain in rehearsal or the performance until it has concluded to receive full credit.

FINAL GRADE

0-1 Unexcused absence=No grade adjustment
2 Unexcused absences=Grade dropped one letter
3 Unexcused absences=Grade dropped two letters
4 Unexcused absences=Grade dropped three letters
5+ Unexcused absences=Failing grade for the semester
Tardiness: Three tardies will constitute one unexcused absence.

****If the student acquires a chronic illness that keeps him/her out of class for an extended period, a doctor's note will be required.**

Conductor Observation Paper

Ideally, you would observe two live performances or rehearsals and analyze each conductor. However, due to COVID-19, you will be asked to observe virtually. Please select one orchestral conductor and one choral conductor to discuss. We will examine this assignment in greater detail during class time. Should you need additional conductor suggestions, I will be happy to assist. Topics to include in your paper include but are not limited to:

Conductor posture, stance, arm position, facial expressions, and conducting area.

Discuss the style of the piece and how the conductor reflects this style.

During the performance or rehearsal, does the conductor change anything about their conducting to reflect or represent the sound they would like to hear? Does the ensemble respond?

Discuss anything else you may observe during the rehearsal as it pertains to the conductor and the ensemble performance.

RECORDING

To facilitate your personal progression and development as a young conductor, it is crucial to record, watch, analyze, and reflect. Please use your phone or tablet to record yourself as you conduct. You will be able to take this home and reflect upon your gesture along with my comments and suggestions.

IMPORTANT DATES:

January 14: Florida Music Educators Association (Dr. Posada, presenter)

January 15: Indiana Music Educators Association (Dr. Posada, presenter)

January 18: First Day of Classes

January 21: National Collegiate Choral Organization (Dr. Posada, panel member)

February 10-12: Texas Music Educators Association (Dr. Posada, presenter)

February 28-March 2: Southwestern Choral Directors Association (Dr. Posada, presenter)

March 10: University Chorale Concert (7:00 p.m.)

March 14-18: Spring Break

March 22: Red Oak High School (Dr. Posada, clinician)

May 5: University Chorale Concert (7:00 p.m.)

May 6: Last day of class

May 9-13: Finals (We will meet during our Final Exam time to meet with composers.)

May 14: Commencement

July 10: Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* (Dr. Posada, clinician) LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

Dr. Dallas Swafford

Director of Student Disability Services

dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

325-942-2047

Houston Harte University Center, 112

TITLE IX

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

GENERAL POLICIES RELATED TO THIS COURSE

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)

INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#) for more information.

STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#) for more information.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject of disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Science and Engineering adheres to the Statement of [Academic Integrity](#)

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook.

Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).

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