

Angelo State University
Department of Visual and Performing Arts
Applied Conducting; MUAP 4101-05Z; 1 credit hour

SYLLABUS, Spring 2022

Dr. Jonathan D. Alvis, *Director of Bands*
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Office hours are posted outside of Dr. Alvis' office.

Goal

Applied conducting lessons will focus upon both basic and advanced conducting techniques, rehearsal techniques for both large and small ensembles, score study/analysis, and selecting appropriate literature. The history of the wind band, prominent composers, and influential conductors/pedagogues will also be discussed. Objectives, procedures, strategies/assignments, and evaluation have been outlined below.

Objectives

Conducting

1. Conduct any standard beat pattern, including 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 12.
2. Demonstrate alternative beat pattern styles for meters listed in no. 1.
3. Conduct a subdivided beat pattern.
4. Maintain a steady beat pattern.
5. Gradually change tempo from fast to slow (rit.) and slow to fast (accel.).
6. Indicate appropriate gestures of syncopation.
7. Indicate a complete range of dynamics and dynamic changes.
8. Start and cut-off performers on any beat or any portion of the beat with appropriate preparatory gestures and eye contact.
9. Demonstrate independent functioning of left and right hands.
10. Indicate entrance cues where needed and appropriate, including left hand cues, baton cues, head nods, facial expressions, and eye contact.
11. Indicate appropriate phrasings with right and/or left hand.
12. Demonstrate an appropriate level of intensity/command and "impulse of will."

Score Preparation and Score Reading

1. Sing individual lines of the score.
2. Justify tempo selection.
3. Justify the style and phrasing sought in the score.
4. Demonstrate freedom from the score (eye contact).
5. Demonstrate a knowledge of performance practice of various genres of music.

Rehearsal Procedures

1. Develop and describe an appropriate warm-up routine for various ensembles, including wind band.
2. Discuss and implement effective techniques of time management during rehearsals.
3. Establish and accomplish a set of highly specific goals for a given rehearsal.
4. Observe and analyze various rehearsal techniques, discussing the effectiveness of the conductor.

Other

1. Evaluate critically performances of standard repertoire by band or orchestra with regard to style, technique, balance, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, etc. Ensembles of all ability levels should be evaluated.

2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of wind band and chamber ensemble music appropriate for multiple levels of ability.
3. Develop multiple concert programs appropriate for specific ability levels and ensembles.
4. Identify common problems of the wind band in regards to balance, blend, and intonation.
5. Become familiar with influential conductors, pedagogues, and composers, as well as significant works for the wind band.
6. Discuss various techniques to motivate students and large groups both intrinsically and extrinsically.

Procedures

Projects and assignments will be made based upon a spiral framework, beginning with basic information and progressing to more advanced techniques. The rate of progression will be based upon the student's needs and accomplishments while still maintaining specific goals. Basic techniques will be regularly reviewed and discussed. When necessary, goals and objectives will be redefined by the instructor with the assistance of the student. The instructor understands that certain concepts in the conducting field are more difficult to master and the student learns at his/her own pace and will consider all aspects when making assignments.

Strategies/Assignments

1. Each week, the student will be assigned up to three works for concert band, orchestra, and/or smaller ensembles of varying styles and/or basic conducting exercises to prepare and conduct for the instructor. High quality recordings (if available) will be used. Literature will be from a wide variety of ability levels but will be selected progressively based upon the ability and instructional needs of the student.
2. Various articles and texts, selected by the instructor, will be assigned throughout the semester. These will be discussed in the lesson. Topics will include conducting, rehearsal, and score study techniques.
3. The student will be assigned a work to conduct in an ensemble to be determined by the instructor. The student will be responsible for all of performance and rehearsal. Rehearsals will be video recorded and reviewed during the weekly lesson. Emphasis will be placed upon developing and refining positive rehearsal techniques.
4. The student will write a term paper. The topic of the term paper will focus upon wind band literature, influential conductors/band leaders, or an influential composer of wind band literature. The topic must be approved by the instructor and should be appropriate to pursue publication in a scholarly journal.
5. The student will observe no less than three conductors (not including USD faculty) in rehearsal settings. Reflections will then be made on various techniques used throughout the rehearsal, player responses, and styles of communication used, both verbally and non-verbally. Video recordings can be used. Live rehearsals, however, are encouraged.

Schedule/Attendance Policy

The professor and student will meet weekly in a one-on-one session to discuss the various aspects of conducting. This time will be determined at the beginning of the semester. If the student cannot attend the weekly meeting, the professor must be notified 24 hours in advance. Likewise, personal performance obligations and opportunities require the professor's absence during the semester. Proper notification will be provided by the instructor and every attempt will be made to reschedule the lesson time for the week. Occasionally, this will require lessons on Saturdays or evenings.

Evaluation

1. The student will receive a weekly grade through observations of the weekly conducting assignments. The instructor will provide feedback following each observation.*
2. Written assignments will be submitted for grading. The student will receive a letter grade and feedback from the instructor for each assignment.
3. Self-evaluation is critical to the success of the student. The student is encouraged to keep a journal reflecting upon exercises, successes, and failures during rehearsals and score preparations. A significant amount of time will be spent in the lessons discussing possible ways of developing and/or improving rehearsal, conducting, and communication techniques.

Some materials (scores, recordings, texts, etc.) will be loaned to the student for use. The student must return all of the materials at the end of the semester. If items are not returned, a grade of incomplete will be assigned until all items are returned.

*Grading a conducting student is a subjective process. The student must have faith in the ability and experience of the instructor to make subjective evaluations of his/her performance. Conducting (the physical aspects) come very easily to a select few. Some students struggle greatly. Others fall in the middle. The instructor has the ability to discern which students are really working and which students are simply coasting.

University Policies

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:

Ms. Dallas Swafford, Director of 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 Boone, 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.boone@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.

Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

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.

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.

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.

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**.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

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](#)