

INTRODUCTION TO CONDUCTING

Fall 2008

COURSE NUMBER: MUSPE 290

TIME: Tuesday, Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

LOCATION: MU 123

INSTRUCTORS: Bohuslav Rattay; contact@bohuslavrattay.com
Matthew Hooper; mphooper@bsu.edu

Orchestral Office Phone: 285-1419

Office Location: MIB 131

Office Hours: By Appointment. Email for an appointment (mphooper@bsu.edu). I will make myself available for extra help if you ask for it.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Conducting (MUSPE 290) is designed to develop principles of conducting technique. Development of a fluent and expressive beat style and of rhythmic and aural faculties essential to successful direction of vocal and instrumental ensembles. Class members will be expected to play and sing when not conducting.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To establish basic conducting skills.
- To provide supervised practice in the use of beginning conducting techniques as conductors of instrumental and vocal ensembles.
- To introduce instrumental transpositions.
- To develop conducting technique, gesture, listening, and movement that will portray music in a stylistically correct and musically artistic manner.
- To develop a means of self-improvement in conducting techniques using peer critiques and instructor guided analysis.

EXPECTATIONS

The development of one's conducting and rehearsal technique to a proficiency level of the professional music educator will require outside score study and practice time. A minimum of four days a week for thirty minutes per day is expected. In some cases, more time will be necessary. Remember, doing score study a little bit each day will pay off; doing nothing each day will not move you forward in your learning and understanding of who you are as a conductor, musician, and educator.

There will be a class website located at <http://www.matthooper.com/MUSPE290.html> It is expected that you check this website for updates, new assignments, etc. If you are absent from class for any reason, go here first to see what was missed. There will be a copy of this syllabus, the course calendar, and other pertinent class notes.

CLASS MATERIALS

Blank DV video tape to record conducting rounds. Some conducting rounds will be recorded.

TEXT

Phillips, Kenneth H. *Basic Techniques of Conducting*. Oxford University Press: New York. 1997.

CONDUCTING VIDEO TAPE SESSIONS

Conductors will conduct in each session. It is the student's responsibility to provide a Hi8 video tape for each time. Failure to provide a tape will result in the loss of conducting time and a failing grade for that conducting session.

VIDEO TAPE REVIEWS

Students will write a review of their video tape sessions—one review which covers videos up to the midterm, and a second one which covers videos from midterm to the final. Included in the typed paper will be your response to what you see on the tape, your thoughts and reactions, questions you have, and a minimum of three (3) goals that you will focus on for improving your conducting for the second half of the semester.

The first paper will be due in to the instructor at the midterm—and the second one on Thursday, December 11. Failure to turn in the review will result in a failing grade for the Video Tape Review. All reviews will be no more than one typed page and double spaced. Remember, this is your responsibility to obtain a camera for review.

CONDUCTOR CRITIQUE PAPERS

Students are required to observe two professional conductors in rehearsal and write a critique of these conductors. The papers should include information on conducting technique/gesture and movement, rehearsal techniques, and other pertinent information relative to the art of conducting. All papers will be typed, double spaced, and a minimum of one page. The first paper is due at the midterm and the second one is due by Thursday, December 11.

Throughout the semester, you are encouraged to ask the instructor questions about your progress in this class. This will assist you in your development of this skill

ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION

As a professional music educator, it is imperative that your rehearsals begin and end on time. The Ball State University policy on attendance is stated in the catalog. The university regards student participation in class as essential to the learning process. For this class, **perfect attendance is considered the norm**. The only exceptions are for university sanctioned activities, sickness and religious holidays. Such absences will be excused and the student will be given reasonable assistance with missed class work. It is understood that an absence from class does not excuse the student from course work and it is the responsibility of the student to complete the assignment on time. If a student knows in advance that a class will be missed, the instructor should be notified at least three (3) days in advance.

Contact me through email at mphooper@bsu.edu

Two or more unexcused absences will lower the grade by one-half letter (A to A-, etc.). Each subsequent unexcused absence will lower the grade one additional letter. Three tardies will count as one unexcused absence. Class will begin on time and students are expected to arrive on time.

GRADING

Conducting Sessions	50%
Written Assignments	25%
Attendance/Participation/Effort	25%

90-100% = A 80-89% = B 70-79% = C 60-69% = D 59% & below = F

SPECIAL NEEDS

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. My office is, my email is mphooper@bsu.edu and the Orchestral Office phone number is 285-1419.