Western Michigan University
School of Music
Choral Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS
MUS 5300 – Advanced Choral Conducting
2 Credits

Professor: Dr. Kimberly Dunn Adams
Room: Dalton 1720
Email: Kimberly.Adams@wmich.edu
Phone: 269-387-4715
Office Hours: W, 3-5:00pm Th, 3-4pm, or by appointment
Sign up outside office door for office hour appointments

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course entails the continued development of conducting technique with emphasis given to choral rehearsal procedures and planning, vocal development, diction, conducting of vocal choral literature, and choral performance practices. In short, this is a class in choral artistry.

Class meets in Dalton 1209 on Mondays from 4:00-5:40pm.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Students completing Music 5300 will demonstrate growth and competency in:

• Coordinating/controlling physical movement in response to the rhythmic and expressive character of the music.
• Conducting special considerations: recitative, pacing, masterworks, variety of expressive gestural vocabulary
• Baton technique
• Score Study/Score Analysis/Score graphing
• Rehearsal Technique & Choral Pedagogy
• Conductor’s physiology and movement
• Self Analysis

TEXTS, MATERIALS

Scores

Händel, Messiah (Full score – Dover edition is fine.)
Bach Chorales (to be handed out each week)
Durufle, Ubi Caritas
Fauré, *Requiem*  
Victoria, *Ave verum corpus*

**Readings (On Reserve)**

Articles on E-reserve or sent out digitally throughout the semester.

**Other**

- Metronome  
- Tuning Fork (A=440)  
- Colored Pencils  
- Graph Paper (or xls spreadsheets)  
- SD Card for Video  
- Baton

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**EVALUATION & GRADING**

**Participation**

- 25%

Daily preparation of music & reading assignments  
Active participation in class, including discussions  
Demonstration of preparedness in conducting and singing all parts of the score  
Accompanying at least one lab session  
Punctual attendance:  
  - Two absences lowers your final participation grade by 1 letter.  
  - Absences thereafter will continue to lower your grade by 1 letter.  
  - 2 tardies = 1 absence  
  - Absence does not excuse you from meeting the due date for assignments and presentations.

**Labs**

- 25%

All labs will be held in class and videotaped.  
You will be evaluated on:  
  - Preparation of score  
  - Conducting competency, clarity, and musicality  
  - Mastery of directed concepts  
  - Rehearsal technique  
You will be responsible for setting up the video camera for 2 sessions.

**Written Work**

- 25%

2 Rehearsal Observations (must be different ensembles)  
1 Concert Observation  
2 CD reviews
Self-Critiques of Conducting Videos (1 due for every lab, due by the next class)
Graphing Assignment
3 literature reviews (turned in at any time during the semester)
Score Analysis (written)
Messiah Handout

Final 25%

The Final will be in 2 parts. The first half will consist of an in-class lab.
The second will be a paper.

Extra Credit will be offered to students who join (and show proof of membership) in conducting organizations such as ACDA & Chorus America.

Written work may be revised and re-submitted for an average between the 2 grades.

Writing Statement/Bargain

In the academic and professional worlds, good writing skills ensure a teacher’s survival. As such, your written work in this class will be strictly graded and reviewed. An acceptable paper must:

1. Be organized clearly. It should include proper introductory and concluding paragraphs, a well-structured body, and smooth transitions from paragraph to paragraph.
2. Contain NO spelling or grammatical errors.
3. Use a college-level vocabulary. Don’t repeat the same words from sentence to sentence. Use accurate and precise descriptors. Look up the correct musical terms – and spelling – in a music dictionary.
4. Adhere to the guiding principles in “Elements of Style” (Strunk and White). Some examples (but not all):
   a. Use active words (not passive)
   b. Use proper and varied punctuation
   c. No clichés
   d. Formal sentence structure
   e. Clarity within a clause

Subjective style issues – such as the “Oxford Comma” – will not be counted against your grade.

You must turn in ONE writing assignment that meets the strict criteria. In other words, you must prove that you can write well. Once you have turned in ONE perfect paper, each writing assignment thereafter (except for 1 of the 2 CD reviews and the final paper) can be submitted in outline format. These assignments will be graded for content only.

Diversity Statement

Western Michigan University’s College of Education maintains a strong and sustained commitment to the diverse and unique nature of all learners, and to maintaining high expectations for each student.
**Academic Honesty Statement**

Students are responsible for awareness and understanding of the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalog or Graduate Catalog that pertain to Academic Integrity. These policies cover cheating, fabrication, falsification, forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe a student has been involved in academic dishonesty, the student will:

- be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs
- given the opportunity to review the charge(s)
- have the opportunity for a hearing

If students are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test, they should consult the class instructor.

**Disability Services Statement**

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the professor and/or Disability Services for Students at the beginning of the semester.

**Schedule**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Introduction; Skill Assessment; Learning Styles; Create content rubrics; Introduction to Analysis and Graphing Assignment: Prepare Ubi Caritas</td>
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<td>9/17</td>
<td>Conducting Lab – Ubi Caritas Assignment: Score preparation readings</td>
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<td>9/24</td>
<td>CD Review #1 Due; Conducting Lab #2 – Ubi Caritas; Analysis Assignment: Score preparation readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/1</td>
<td>Rehearsal Observation #1 Due; Fauré intro; Musical decisions Assignment: Learn and prepare Fauré</td>
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<td>10/8</td>
<td>Conducting Lab – Fauré Assignment: Renaissance performance practice readings, prepare Renaissance piece</td>
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<td>10/15</td>
<td>Reading discussion; Conducting Lab - Renaissance Assignment: Rehearsal techniques readings</td>
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<td>10/22</td>
<td>CD Review #2 Due; Discussion of readings</td>
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<td>10/29</td>
<td>Masterwork planning; Intro to Messiah&lt;br&gt;Assignment: Learn “Thus Saith the Lord” (from Messiah)</td>
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<td>11/5</td>
<td>Rehearsal Observation #2 Due; Recit Lab #1 (Thus Saith the Lord)&lt;br&gt;Assignment: Learn “Angel Sequence” (from Messiah)</td>
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<td>11/12</td>
<td>Finish Recit Lab #1; Recit Lab #2 (Angel Sequence)&lt;br&gt;Assignment: Analysis reading packet</td>
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<td>11/19</td>
<td>Analysis and Graphing; Final repertoire introduced&lt;br&gt;Assignment: Prepare final exam repertoire; choose final project piece</td>
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<td>11/26</td>
<td>Messiah Presentations (open to the public)</td>
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<td>12/3</td>
<td>Final Exam Lab</td>
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<td>ConductFest 2012 2.0</td>
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<td>12/6</td>
<td>ConductFest 2012 2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Final Project Due</td>
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