

Fall 2015

## **MUS 6111**

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*University of New Orleans*

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# Seminar / Applied Conducting

## Seminar / Applied Choral Conducting

MUS 6111

Fall 2015

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00-10:45, T Th 12-2 Other times by appt. Cell 504.390.5331

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**Class Times:** Hours arranged as a one-to-one lesson

### Materials:

Literature and Books as assigned and on reserve in the UNO Library. Any materials on loan from your professor must be returned in the same condition as they were when they were loaned.

**About This Course:** This course is designed to enhance the student's skills in conducting and rehearsal technique with a choral ensemble.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Understand the relationship between text and music and how that effects conducting.
- Communicate expression to a choir through conducting gestures.
- Achieve accuracy and conservation of motion for effective conducting.
- Learn techniques to assist a choir in proper tone production.
- Learn basic terminology which assists in score reading and interpretation.
- Analyze music in terms of form, harmony, and melody; how analysis relates to the text and conducting technique.
- Identify problem areas in conducting / rehearsing and discover ways to improve them.
- Discover ways of creating artistic performance and promoting musicality.
- Discover / discuss elements of historical performance practices

### Student Expectations:

You will be expected to show progress in your lessons and articulate the skills needed to work with different types of ensembles. You are highly encouraged to pursue professional choral employment.

You are expected to be enthusiastic about and to attend choral concerts during the semester. This is your chosen art – steep yourself in it joyfully!

You will be given experience in the form of organizational work, supervising undergraduates when asked, running sectionals when needed, and possibly conducting at a concert. You should be prepared on pieces that have been assigned to you.

## **Conductor Observations:**

During the semester, each student is to observe three different choral conductors (of which the instructor does not count). Any high school, church, or college conductors would qualify. The observation may be of a performance or a rehearsal. A summary of each observation is to be written including observed strengths, style, impressions, and what you can learn from other's conducting style. Summaries will be due the last lesson of the semester.

## **Examinations:**

Test 1 October 1

Test 2 November 1

Test 3 November 20

Reports due last day of class

Exam scheduled as mutually agreed upon time, scheduled around your other final examinations.

## **Attendance Policy:**

Each student will purchase a lesson card from the bookstore, which will entitle him or her to thirteen lessons per semester. Lessons will occur at a mutually agreed on time each week to be assigned at the beginning of the semester. Student is expected to be punctual and inform the instructor at the latest *the day before* if he or she will not be able to make their lesson that week. Instructor **will not** reschedule lesson times except in the case of emergencies. Instructor will wait for student up to *fifteen minutes* after the beginning of the assigned lesson time. After this time, the instructor reserves the right to leave the office. The instructor also reserves the right to deduct up to **one half-letter grade** from your final grade for each unexcused absence.

## **Note:**

You may be preparing for a recital performance which will include organization and rehearsal of singers. Your rehearsals should include demonstrations of proper vocal tone, articulation, vowel purity, rhythm, breath support, and gesture. The nature of the recital (rehearsal format, concert recital as ensemble assistant, or independent ensemble) determines the literature, rehearsal time allowed, the schedule and the performance venue.

## **IMPORTANT SEMESTER DATES**

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| Aug 18 (11:59PM) | - Last date of schedule adjustment period (without fee penalty)            | Jan 12  |
|                  | Late registration fees to UNO begin  |   |
| Aug 19           | First day of classes   | Schedule adjustment period starts (with \$50 fee penalty per day) |
| Aug 25           | (11:59PM) - Last date of schedule adjustment period (with fee penalty)     |   |
|                  | Final date to drop with 100% refund  |   |
| Sept 7           | Labor Day Holiday  |   |
| Sept 8           | Final day to drop without class being recorded                             |   |
| Sept 9           | Automatic "W" will be recorded for all courses dropped (\$50 fee per drop) |   |
| Sept 16          | Final date to withdraw/resign for 50% refund                               |   |
| Oct 5-9          | Mid-semester exams   |   |
| Oct 14           | Final date to drop courses (W recorded) or resign from the university      |   |
| Oct 15,16        | Fall Break   |   |
| Nov 26,27        | Thanksgiving Break   |   |
| Dec 4            | Last day of classes  |   |
| Dec 7-11         | Final EXAMS  |   |

**Grading and Attendance Policy:** Grades will be based on three tests during the term, the final exam, and two concert reports. Attendance will be taken. Any more than three missed classes may result in a lowering of your final grade by one letter.

**Test 1 - 20% Test 2 – 20% Test 3 – 20% Reports 20% Final 20%**

Test 1 - 50% forms 50% programming

Test 2 - 50% Listening 50% rehearsal planning

Test 3 – 25% listening, 25% forms, 25% Literature/programming, 25% methodology

Reports – profile two conductors; one choral and one instrumental

Final 50% conducting and 50% semester material - inclusive

*\* Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the Student Code of Conduct for further information. The Code is available online at <http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu>.*

### **Accommodations**

*\*\* It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to <http://www.ods.uno.edu>.*

### **Classroom Conduct**

This class is taught in a highly interactive manner, both between you and the professor and between you and the other members of the class, and you are expected to participate fully in all activities. Be in class on time and with all of your materials. Tardies not only negatively affect your learning (and your grade), but the learning of your classmates. There is no excuse for repeatedly arriving late. *Please turn off all cell phones.* You will be asked to give feedback to your classmates on their progress. Respect and constructive criticism is expected. You may be working with several graduate students for sections or recital requirements at times during the semester. Please be respectful of the different styles of conducting and rehearsal techniques and be aware that you may be part of their learning process. Disrespectful attitudes and actions are not acceptable.