

University of Texas at El Paso
Conducting Class Fall 2022
Tuesday and Thursday: 9:00 – 10:50 a.m.

Dr. Brandon Houghtalen
FFA Room 138
Office Phone: 915-747-7796
Email: bhoughtalen@utep.edu

Office Hours:
M: 1:30pm-2:30pm
W: 1:30pm-2:30pm
and by Appointment

Instructor Biography: Dr. Brandon Houghtalen currently serves as Director of Athletic Bands and Associate Director of Bands at The University of Texas at El Paso. He previously held conducting positions at Abilene Christian University, the Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of New Mexico. In 2018 he founded the On the List Project, a group of teachers that assists states as they work to make their required music lists more inclusive.

Dr. Houghtalen's professional activities include frequent engagements as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator, as well as conference presentations and social engagement projects. In 2015, he served as a featured clinician of the First National Band Camp of Guatemala, where he taught conducting, wind instrument pedagogy, and co-directed the first national marching band of Guatemalan students. Recently, he has been featured on the podcasts *Trilloquy* and *The Score* and professional development events sponsored by CBDNA, TMEA, and NAFME. His research on James Reese Europe and the 369th Infantry Regiment Band led to the creation of new performing editions of *The Memphis Blues*, *The St. Louis Blues*, and *The Clef Club March*.

Dr. Houghtalen earned degrees in music education and conducting from the University of Tennessee, the University of Colorado, and Arizona State University. His primary conducting teachers were Allan McMurray and Gary Hill. He is a member of CBDNA, TMEA, TBA, and Phi Mu Alpha, and serves on the Executive Advisory Council of the Institute for Composer Diversity.

About the course:

The study of instrumental conducting is the study of scores, instruments, interpretation, and movement. The role of the conductor is to lead, react to, alter, and reinforce the performance of the ensemble. This class will focus primarily on the development of a non-verbal vocabulary which will allow each student to clearly and artistically communicate with the members of an ensemble to solicit a predetermined musical result.

REQUIRED MATERIALS TO BE PURCHASED BY THE STUDENT:

Baton (to be approved by the instructor)
Colored pencils (e.g., COL-ERASE: blue, red, green, yellow, black)
Metronome
Three-ring binder – Keep all class material, all quizzes, and all scores

All students will bring instruments to every class. Attendance at all classes is imperative. Unexcused absences will adversely affect the final grade. It will not be possible to give makeup exams/reschedule conducting rounds.

Grades will be determined by quiz scores (4), conducting rounds (4), and attendance.

- Absent from a class: -4 points
- Late to a class 2 times=1 absence

Class 1:

Philosophy of Conducting and goals for the semester and beyond.

Music and People

Measure for baton

Class 2:

Brené Brown and Vulnerability

Principles of Gesture and Movement (an Introduction)

Hinges; plane; preparatory, ictus, rebound.

Relationship of movement and music.

Eyes and facial expression.

Class 3:

Diagnostic exam on instruments and transpositions*.

Gunther Schuller: "Seven Kinds of Ear"

The Score (an introduction)

Score reading

Information gathering

Conductor's analysis

Intellect and Intuition

Score marking

*For students needing extra practice with transposition, additional work may be prescribed.

Class 4:

Conducting

Leading (tempo, style, dynamic)

Meter 2/4, 3/4, 4/4

Class 5

Piece 1: Personal Melody

"Looking like the Music"

The breath as a preparatory

Inspirations in Time

Tempo and Meter

Class 6:

Quiz - Piece 1

Conducting Piece 1

Class 7:

Conducting round 1 Group 1

Class 8:
Conducting Round 1 Group 2

Class 9:
Conducting Round 1 Group 3

Class 10:
Conducting Round 1 Group 4

Class 11:
Gesture and Movement - Piece 2
Fermata; releases; gesture of syncopation; staccato and legato; macro and micro beats;
crescendo, diminuendo

Class 12:
Quiz on Piece 2
Conducting Piece 2

Class 13:
Conducting round 2 Group 1 - Piece 2

Class 14:
Conducting round 2 Group 2 - Piece 2

Class 15:
Conducting round 2 Group 3 - Piece 2

Class 16:
Conducting round 2 Group 4 - Piece 2

Class 17:
Gesture and Movement – Copland *Appalachian Spring*
Tempo and Meter changes – passive gestures and active gestures

Class 18:
Quiz on Copland and Appalachian Spring
Conducting Copland excerpt

Class 19:
Conducting round 3 Group 1 - Copland

Class 20:
Conducting round 3 Group 2 - Copland

Class 21:
Conducting round 3 Group 3 - Copland

Class 22:
Conducting round 3 Group 4 - Copland

Class 23:
Gesture and Movement
Odd Meter – clarity – character of music
Piece 4

Class 24:
Quiz on Piece 4
Conducting Piece 4

Class 25:
Conducting round 4 Group 1 - Piece 4

Class 26:
Conducting round 4 Group 2 - Piece 4

Class 27:
Conducting round 4 Group 3 - Piece 4

Class 28:
Conducting round 4 Group 4 - Piece 4

Class 29:
Growth and self - evaluation as a conductor
Evaluation of course