

MUSA 5341 Applied Conducting – Choral Conducting Online

Dr. Elisa Fraser Wilson

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Office Hours: by appointment.

Information about Dr. Wilson can be found at the following link:

<http://faculty.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=faculty.utep.edu/ewilson>

Prerequisites: successful audition for graduate conducting or performance curriculum and acceptance to graduate study at UTEP

Course Description: Study of effective conducting techniques and development of a personal conducting style in rehearsal and performance. An assessment of the student's needs is evaluated during the first session to form an individual-based course of study for each semester. Select repertoire and research materials will be conducted, analyzed and discussed.

Course Content:

- To develop/refine conducting technique, including clarity of communication; non-metrical gesture; mixed and compound meter; control of dynamics; control of articulation and phrasing; control of tempo; effective entrances and releases; independence of hands.
- Practice conducting skills required to support effective rehearsals, including score analysis and preparation as well as gesture.
- Identify resources available to assist in developing conducting techniques.
- Listen to, read about, discuss, and write about conducting methods and techniques.
- Observe, discuss, and write about self, peer and professional conductors.

Course Goals and Objectives:

The goals of this course are to prepare choral conductors to:

- Develop effective and efficient conducting gesture, with an emphasis on clarity, non-verbal communication, and gesture as it affects singers and phonation.
- Develop conductor's score study and rehearsal techniques.
- Develop self- and peer assessment skills.
- Assess and address conducting challenges in the classroom/rehearsal setting.

Each graduate student will meet 1 hour per week via zoom and/or submit weekly videos of his/her conducting. A brief study guide, score study and warmups for each composition will be prepared and submitted as appropriate. Written self-evaluations will be completed for each video; in addition, peer evaluations may be solicited. Each student will complete 14 synchronous zoom lessons and/or video submissions and evaluations for the semester and will receive instructor feedback on these weekly.

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Prepare score studies for effective rehearsal, addressing elements of conducting technique as well as form; pitch and texture; time; dynamics; style; text; instrumentation; and potential conducting problems.
- Prepare select choral works for rehearsal and performance, addressing gesture, analysis, and pedagogy.
- Critique personal progress and performance verbally and in written assignments, including self-evaluations and practice journals.
- Discuss and compare various perspectives on conducting philosophy, score study, gestural communication, rehearsal techniques, and repertoire selection presented by peers and professional conductors.

Course Requirements:

To achieve these objectives, the student will:

- Read/listen/view as assigned.
- Attend scheduled zoom sessions. Missed sessions may be rescheduled in consultation with instructor.
- Submit videos as assigned.
- Maintain and submit weekly practice journal entries.
- Prepare conducting materials according to assigned methods of analysis and preparation.
- Complete and submit all *scholarly work* via Blackboard as assigned.
- Evaluate self and peer performance verbally and in writing.

Materials and Personal Equipment:

- Scores
- Baton
- Colored pencils
- Metronome
- Video recording device
- GoReact subscription for video submission and feedback through Blackboard (subscription is available through first Blackboard course assignment)

Each student will need a means of recording their sessions for review; students are responsible for uploading their video from their device to Blackboard.

Readings and Listening/Viewing Assignments: in required texts and on Blackboard, online reserves/UTEP library online texts, and OneDrive.

Required Texts:

Conducting Technique by Brock McElheran
Chorus Confidential by William Dehning
Voice Building for Choirs by Frauke Haasemann and Wilhelm Ehmann

NOTE: All written work must be submitted on time to the instructor. No handwritten work will be accepted.

Class Schedule: Zoom appointments TBD. All videos and written work will be due Sundays by 11:59 PM MST.

Grading: *Grades will be based on the following criteria:*

- Scale: 90-100% A, 80-89% B, 70-79% C, 60-69% D, Below 60% F
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| Zoom lessons, Conducting Videos and Self-Evaluations | 60% of grade |
| Written responses to reading/viewing/listening/practicing | 10% of grade |
| Study Guides/Score Study/Warmups Preparation Work | 30% of grade |

Academic Honesty: Any questions regarding university policies on academic honesty may be found at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>

Accessibility for Students with Disabilities: Any reasonable accommodation for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities, will be made. If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodation, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office in the East Union Building, Rm 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can be reached at: <http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass> or call (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY cass@utep.edu.