

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

**MU 3150 Introduction to Conducting
Winter 1997
Course Outline**

INSTRUCTOR Derek J. Tuba, Office L116, 539-2016
Office hours: Tuesday, 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Conducting is designed to cover the basic conducting technique as well as the ability to read and interpret the score. The class will function as an ensemble: all students are contributors at all times, whether with an instrument or the voice. Each student will prepare assignments to conduct the ensemble a minimum of once per week.

The fundamentals covered will include:

- a. The function of the conductor
- b. Posture and body language
- c. Beat patterns and style
- d. Baton technique
- e. Special techniques: subdivision, cuing, fermatas, releases, *accelerando*,
ritardando, the left and right hand functions
- f. Score reading: transposition of instruments & basic interpretation

PREREQUISITE

MU 1550/1560 and MU 1510 or equivalents. The following skills are essential to a successful completion of MU 3150:

1. Ability to read music in four parts. To be able to play these four parts in order to perceive the aural implications of what is read.
2. Working knowledge of the rudiments of music including pitch, clefs, tonality, rhythm, meter, harmony, form and the common Italian musical terms.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of instruction, personal study and reflection it is expected that all students who complete the course will be able to conduct short excerpts of standard ensemble repertoire (advanced) and a complete standard work for junior high wind band. As a conductor you will be able to provide clear entrances, cues, beat patterns, releases, interpretative indications, and whatever else may be required for a good performance of a particular work.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

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A. Texts

Required:

- Froseth, James O. and Richard F. Grunow. *MLR Instrumental Score Reading Program*. Chicago: G.I.A. Publications Inc., 1979.
Hunsberger, Donald and Roy E. Ernst. *The Art of Conducting*. 2nd edition. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1992.

On Reserve:

- Battisti, Frank and Robert Garofalo. *Guide to Score Study, for the wind band conductor*. Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: Meredith Music Publications, 1990.
Froseth, James O. and Richard F. Grunow. *Instrumental Score Reading Program, Home Study Cassettes*. Chicago: G.I.A. Publications Inc., 1979.
Green, Elizabeth A. *The Modern Conductor*. 5th edition. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1992.
*Randel, Don, ed. *The New Harvard Dictionary of Music*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1986.
*General Reserve

Recommended:

- Rudolf, Max. *The Grammar of Conducting*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1980.

B. Conducting Baton

C. Metronome

EVALUATIVE CRITERIA

| | |
|---|--------------|
| MLR Score Reading Program Exercises & Quizzes | 10% |
| 2 Written Quizzes | 20% |
| 4 Conducting Assignments | 40% |
| Final examination. | 30% |
| | Total = 100% |

Grading for the four Conducting Assignments will be given according to the nine-point system. Each stanine is representative of the following standard of performance:

| <u>Grade</u> | <u>Criteria</u> |
|--------------|---|
| 9 | Reserved |
| 8 | All major and minor goals achieved |
| 7 | All major goals achieved, one or 2 minor areas need improvement |
| 6 | All major goals achieved, many minor areas need improvement |
| 5 | Some major goals achieved but there are several problem areas. Some problems persist from previous evaluations. |
| 4 | No major goals achieved. Problems persist from previous evaluations |

The grade of 9 is reserved until computation of your Final Grade. At the instructor's discretion, this grade will be applied to reward a consistently 'excellent' standard in all areas of the course.

The Final Grade may be lowered by one level (stanine) if the student:

- a. does not perform in the ensemble
- b. does not co-operate for other student conductors
- c. misses classes (if the student must miss a class, prior approval from the instructor is expected).

EXPECTATIONS: Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions. There will be regular reading and assignments from the text and MLR Score Reading Program. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class of the due date. Assignments that are handed in late will not be accepted.

Failing to complete any assignment or test will result in an automatic failing mark of 0 for that assignment or test.

Students must complete all home work assignments and written assignments and attend all class lectures in order to achieve a passing grade in this course.

Extensions will only be granted if the student experiences the death of an immediate family member.

Please refer to "Your Rights and Responsibilities," pages 18 & 19 of the College Calendar, for further points regarding your expectations.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Grading is base on the nine (9)-point system as outlined in the College Calender.