

**San José State University
School of Music and Dance
MUSC 147C, Advanced Choral Conducting, Spring 2015**

Instructor:	Dr. Jeffrey Benson
Office Location:	MUS 262
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Email:	jeffrey.benson@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	T, 11:30am-12:30pm; R 11:30am-12:30pm
Class Days/Time:	MW 12:00-1:15pm
Classroom:	MUS 182
Prerequisites:	MUSC 147A or instructor consent. Concurrent enrollment in a choir is strongly recommended.
Teaching Assistant:	Pamela Ketcham, pgkmusic@gmail.com

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on my faculty web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/jeffrey.benson>. You are responsible for regularly checking email to learn any updates.

Course Description

This course will focus on the foundations of choral conducting, with particular emphasis on rehearsal techniques. The course will also include a study of choral literature and repertoire from the Renaissance through modern day.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

Course Content Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- CLO 1 Demonstrate development as a conductor through work on breath, gesture, internal tempo and expression.
- CLO 2 Demonstrate the techniques of hand/baton position as they affect the choral ensemble.
- CLO 3 Demonstrate expressive use of both hands as related to the musical ideas in the score.
- CLO 4 Demonstrate professional stage presence and emotional communication while conducting in class.

- CLO 5 Conduct in a variety of styles including legato, marcato, staccato, etc.
- CLO 6 Conduct selected beat patterns and mixed meters.
- CLO 7 Identify a larger body of quality choral literature.
- CLO 8 Demonstrate the role of the teacher/conductor in a rehearsal and classroom.
- CLO 9 Develop the ability to analyze and prepare a score.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

Decker, Harold and Colleen Kirk. *Choral Conducting: Focus on Communication*. Waveland Press, Inc. ISBN 978-0-88133-876-8 (\$38)
Five Centuries of Choral Music for Mixed Voices. G. Schirmer, Inc.

Other equipment / material requirements

Baton

Assigned reading and scores (some provided by instructor, some obtained by students)

Course Requirements and Assignments

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. More details about student workload can be found at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-3.pdf>.

Grades are based upon the following formula. In order to receive a passing grade for this course, the student must satisfactorily complete each of the constituent parts.

Rehearsal/Conducting Presentations - 45%

- Conducting assignments are necessarily cumulative and should reflect consistent improvement. Students will also be assigned warm-up presentations.

Self-Evaluations & Rehearsal Plans - 20%

- Students will complete graded assignments throughout the semester. The student will also complete a written evaluation of each conducting experience.

Rehearsal Observations & Assignments - 15%

- Students will complete a programming assignment where they will be expected to plan a full concert program.
- Students must observe two rehearsals, including one non-SJSU choral rehearsal (45-minute rehearsals). One of the two rehearsals must be focused on Direct Instruction.

Final Choral Literature Portfolio - 10%

- The Final Choral Literature Portfolio will include music appropriate for various level ensembles from all of the major style periods.

Professional Behavior - 10%

- Participation is essential for success in this course. Students must conduct and critique each day in order to earn full credit for participation.
- When not conducting, the student serves in the "performing ensemble."

Grading Information

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
59 and lower	F

Penalty for Late or Missed Work

Assignments are due on the dates stated in the Course Schedule. Students may not make up a missed test or assignment due to an unexcused absence. Missed tests or assignments due to excused absences can only be made up at a time appointed by the instructor. You must notify the instructor of an excused absence *before* the absence occurs.

Classroom Protocol

Class participation is essential. Students will be involved not only as conductors but as attentive and encouraging ensemble members. When your colleagues are conducting rehearsals, you are expected to sing and fully participate. You are expected to be in class on time (in your seat with all materials by 12:00pm). Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off.

University Policies

General Expectations, Rights and Responsibilities of the Student

As members of the academic community, students accept both the rights and responsibilities incumbent upon all members of the institution. Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with SJSU's policies and practices pertaining to the procedures to follow if and when questions or concerns about a class arises. See [University Policy S90-5](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S90-5.pdf>. More detailed information on a variety of related topics is available in the [SJSU catalog](#), at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/catalog/rec-12234.12506.html>. In general, it is recommended that students begin by seeking clarification or discussing concerns with their instructor. If such conversation is not possible, or if it does not serve to address the issue, it is recommended that the student contact the Department Chair as a next step.

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's [Catalog Policies](#) section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the [Academic Calendars webpage](#) at http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/. The [Late Drop Policy](#) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the [Advising Hub](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>.

Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

[University Policy S12-7](#), <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video

recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf> requires you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The [Student Conduct and Ethical Development website](http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/) is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include your assignment or any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Integrity Policy S07-2 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. [Presidential Directive 97-03](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) at http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the [Accessible Education Center](http://www.sjsu.edu/aec) (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

In 2013, the Disability Resource Center changed its name to be known as the Accessible Education Center, to incorporate a philosophy of accessible education for students with disabilities. The new name change reflects the broad scope of attention and support to SJSU students with disabilities and the University's continued advocacy and commitment to increasing accessibility and inclusivity on campus.

School of Music and Dance Policies and Procedures

Music Use Fee:

Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee of \$30 each semester. The fee must be paid directly to the Cashier's Office, and you must bring the receipt to the Music Office before completing registration. Applied music instruction will not be authorized until this fee is paid. Music 10B students, or students enrolled in any sound recording course, must pay a fee of \$22 each semester that they are enrolled in one or more of these classes. The fees are included in the student's bill, with other registration fees.

MUSC 147C, Advanced Choral Conducting, Spring 2015 Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice. The instructor will notify students of changes in class or via email.

WEEK ONE

January 26	Course Introduction, Gestural Language	Read MTT on Abbado
January 28	Gestural Review	Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 1

WEEK TWO

February 2	Developing Your Choral Sound	Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 5
February 4	Warm-ups, Score Study/Rehearsal Guide	Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 4

WEEK THREE

February 9	Gestural Evaluation	
February 11	Renaissance Era Discussion	Read Decker/Kirk pp. 31-41

WEEK FOUR

February 16	Renaissance Rehearsals	Gesture Self Evaluation due
February 18	Renaissance Rehearsals	Rehearsal Observation due

WEEK FIVE

February 23	Renaissance Rehearsals
February 25	Renaissance Rehearsals

WEEK SIX

March 2	Baroque/Classical Era Discussion	Read Decker/Kirk pp. 41-55
	Positive Impatience & Layering	
March 4	Baroque/Classical Rehearsals	Self-Evaluation/Score due
March 6	Choral Invitational and Masterclass with Dr. Weber (10am-12noon)	

WEEK SEVEN

March 9	Baroque/Classical Rehearsals
March 11	Baroque/Classical Rehearsals

WEEK EIGHT

March 16	Gesture: Mixed Meter & Recitative	
March 18	Gesture: Mixed Meter & Recitative	Self-Evaluation/Score due

SPRING BREAK: March 23-27

WEEK NINE

March 30	Programming with Passion	Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 7
April 1	Gesture: Mixed Meter & Recitative	

WEEK TEN

April 6	Gestural Evaluation
April 8	Guest Choir "Highbridge Voices" Rehearsal

WEEK ELEVEN

April 13	Romantic Discussion/Direct Instruction	Read Decker/Kirk pp. 55-58 Gesture Self-Evaluation due
April 15	Direct Instruction & Romantic Rehearsals	

WEEK TWELVE

April 20	Romantic Rehearsals	Programming Assignment due
April 22	Romantic Rehearsals	

WEEK THIRTEEN

April 27	NO CLASS—Carnegie Hall Trip	
April 29	Modern Era Discussion	Read Decker/Kirk pp. 58-69

WEEK FOURTEEN

May 4	Modern Era Rehearsals	Self-Evaluation/Score due
May 6	Modern Era Rehearsals	DI Rehearsal Observation due

WEEK FIFTEEN

May 11	Final Conducting Evaluation
May 13	Final Conducting Evaluation

FINAL EXAMINATION:

Thursday, May 21	9:45-12:00pm	Final Literature Portfolio Presentation
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