San José State University  
School of Music and Dance  
MUSC 147A, Beginning Conducting, Fall 2014

Contact Information

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Benson
Office Location: Music 262
Telephone: (408) 924-4645
Email: jeffrey.benson@sjtu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30am-12:30pm; Thursday 11:30am-12:30pm
Class Days/Time: Monday, Wednesday 12:00pm-1:15pm
Classroom: Music 150
Prerequisites: Students are required to be of junior standing and a music major, or have instructor consent.
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
Through the development of sound basic conducting technique, students will begin to appreciate the relationship between gesture and sound. Students are required to be of junior standing and a music major, or have instructor consent.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
The students will demonstrate musical ideas clearly and efficiently through fundamental conducting gesture. The conducting gesture includes appropriate posture, the use of the baton, expressive and independent use of both hands, beat patterns, cueing, and control of tempo, dynamics and phrase shaping. The student will also study and/or review elements of instrument transposition and musical terminology.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO 1 Explain and demonstrate proper posture for the conductor.
CLO 2 Explain and demonstrate appropriate use of the baton, hand position and conducting plane.
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 Effectively cue parts of the ensemble.
CLO 8 Define musical terms as appropriate to the knowledge of a conductor.
CLO 9 Understand the transpositions of instruments as related to the score.
CLO 10 Describe the role of the conductor.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
Online packet

Other equipment / material requirements
Baton (12” or 14”)
Assigned reading and scores (some provided by instructor, some obtained by students)

Optional Textbook

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.

**Conducting Presentations & Self-Evaluations - 45%**

- Conducting assignments are necessarily cumulative and should reflect consistent improvement. The student will also complete a written self-evaluation of each conducting experience.

**Examinations - 20%**

- The midterm and final exams will include a prepared conducting assignment and a written component. More information will be announced in class as the dates approach.

**Written Assignments - 25%**

- Students will complete graded assignments throughout the semester. These assignments are due on the date noted on the syllabus.
- The student will submit a rehearsal observation form upon observing of three (3) conductors in rehearsal. The observations must meet the following requirements:
Two observations must involve the conductor of a recognized SJSU ensemble or a PROFESSIONAL conductor in the Bay area. The third observation may include a church or public school conductor. You must observe the conductor rehearsing an ensemble for at least 45 minutes. In addition, one of the rehearsal observations must be a conductor of an instrumental ensemble; one of the observations must be a conductor of a choral ensemble.

- You may not evaluate a rehearsal in which you participate.

**Participation - 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 and lower</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**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 we are conducting vocal music, you are expected to sing. When we are conducting instrumental music, you are expected to bring your instrument and play (if you are an instrumental major) or sing one of the assigned instrumental parts. You are expected to be in class on time (in your seat with all materials by 12pm). Cell phones and other electronic devices should be turned off.

**University Policies**

**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 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 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 (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.
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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: August 25, 27
Monday: Course Introduction, Choosing a Baton, Role of Conductor, Basic Pulse, Connection to Breath, Terms, Patterns
Wednesday: Conducting I: Exercises in Three and Four
Readings: Ormandy, "The Art of Conducting"
Gibson, "The Nature of Conducting"
Assignments: Purchase baton

WEEK TWO: September 1, 3
Monday: NO CLASS-Labor Day
Wednesday: Conducting I: Exercises in Three and Four
Readings: Gladwell, Blink "Introduction"

WEEK THREE: September 8, 10
Monday: CONDUCTING I EVALUATION
Wednesday: The Baton

WEEK FOUR: September 15, 17
Monday: Conducting II, Expressive Gestures
Wednesday: Conducting II, Phrasing and Tempo Changes
Readings: Green: The Expressive Gestures
Assignments: Self-Evaluation I due (September 15)
Rehearsal Observation I due (September 17)

WEEK FIVE: September 22, 24
Monday: Conducting II, Phrasing and Tempo Changes
Wednesday: Conducting II
Assignments: Terms Assignment I due (September 24)

WEEK SIX: September 29, October 1
Monday: CONDUCTING II EVALUATION
Wednesday: Left Hand Independence, Introduction to clefs and transposition
Readings: Hunsberger & Ernst: Clefs and Transposition

WEEK SEVEN: October 6, 8
Monday: Left Hand Independence, Clefs and Transposition
Wednesday: Conducting III
Assignments: Self-Evaluation II due (October 6)
Clefs/Transposition Assignment I due (October 8)
WEEK EIGHT: October 13, 15
Monday: Conducting III
Wednesday: CONDUCTING III EVALUATION
Assignments: Clefs/Transposition Assignment II due (October 13) Rehearsal Observation II due (October 15)

WEEK NINE: October 20, 22
Monday: WRITTEN MIDTERM EXAMINATION (Terminology and Transpositions)
Wednesday: The Fermata
Assignments: Self-Evaluation III due (October 22)

WEEK TEN: October 27, 29
Monday: Melded Gestures, Conducting IV
Wednesday: Conducting IV
Assignments: Fermata Handout Practice

WEEK ELEVEN: November 3, 5
Monday: Conducting IV
Wednesday: Guest Lecturer: Dr. Michael Hanawalt

WEEK TWELVE: November 10, 12
Monday: CONDUCTING IV EVALUATION
Wednesday: Score Study, Preparing the score
Readings: Score Study Handout

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 17, 19
Monday: Two, One, Six and Five Patterns
Wednesday: Asymmetrical and Irregular Meters
Assignments: Self-Evaluation IV due (November 17) Terms Assignment II due (November 19)

WEEK FOURTEEN: November 24, 26
Monday: Conducting V
Wednesday: Conducting V
Assignments: Score Study Assignment due (November 24) Rehearsal Observation III due (November 24)

WEEK FIFTEEN: December 1, 3
Monday: CONDUCTING V EVALUATION
Wednesday: Final Conducting Music

WEEK SIXTEEN: December 8, 10
Monday: WRITTEN FINAL EXAMINATION
Wednesday: FINAL CONDUCTING EVALUATION

FINAL EXAM:
Wednesday, December 17, 9:45am-12noon
Conducting Evaluation Presentation