San José State University
School of Music and Dance
MUSC 147C, Advanced Choral Conducting, Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Benson
Office Location: MUS 262
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Email: jeffrey.benson@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: W, 11:00am-12:00pm
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: Noah Rulison, noah.rulison@sjsu.edu

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

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

<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>
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<tr>
<td>59 and lower</td>
<td>F</td>
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</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 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

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/.

School of Music and Dance Policies and Procedures

Music Use Fee:
Music majors and minors must pay a music equipment use fee 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 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 2020
## 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 27**: Course Introduction, Gestural Language  
  Read MTT on Abbado
- **January 29**: Gestural Review  
  Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 1

### WEEK TWO
- **February 3**: Developing Your Choral Sound  
  Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 5
- **February 5**: Warm-ups, Score Study/Rehearsal Guide  
  Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 4

### WEEK THREE
- **February 10**: Gestural Evaluation  
  Read Decker/Kirk pp. 31-41
- **February 12**: Renaissance Era Discussion

### WEEK FOUR
- **February 17**: Renaissance Rehearsals  
  Gesture Self Evaluation due
- **February 19**: Renaissance Rehearsals  
  Rehearsal Observation due

### WEEK FIVE
- **February 24**: Renaissance Rehearsals
- **February 26**: Error Detection and Listening Skills
- **February 27**: Conducting Seminar with Dr. Rogers (12:30-1:30pm)

### WEEK SIX
- **March 2**: Baroque/Classical Era Discussion  
  Read Decker/Kirk pp. 41-55
- **March 4**: Positive Impatience & Layering  
  Self-Evaluation/Score due
- **March 4**: Baroque/Classical Rehearsals

### WEEK SEVEN
- **March 9**: Baroque/Classical Rehearsals
- **March 11**: Baroque/Classical Rehearsals

### WEEK EIGHT
- **March 16**: Error Detection and Listening Skills
- **March 18**: Programming with Passion  
  Read Decker/Kirk Chapter 7
  Self-Evaluation/Score due

### WEEK NINE
- **March 23**: Gesture: Mixed Meter & Recitative
- **March 25**: Gesture: Mixed Meter & Recitative

### SPRING BREAK: March 30-April 3
WEEK TEN
April  6   NO CLASS: Washington, DC Spring Concert Tour
April  8   Romantic Discussion/Direct Instruction   Read Decker/Kirk pp. 55-58

WEEK ELEVEN
April 13   Gestural Evaluation
April 15   Romantic Rehearsals

WEEK TWELVE
April 20   Romantic Rehearsals   Gesture Self-Evaluation due
April 22   Romantic Rehearsals

WEEK THIRTEEN
April 27   Modern Era Discussion   Programming Assignment due
          Read Decker/Kirk pp. 58-69
April 29   Modern Era Rehearsals   Self-Evaluation/Score due

WEEK FOURTEEN
May 4      Modern Era Rehearsals   DI Rehearsal Observation due
May 6      Final Conducting Evaluation

WEEK FIFTEEN
May 11     Final Conducting Evaluation

FINAL EXAMINATION:
Tuesday, May 19  9:45-12:00pm   Final Literature Portfolio Presentation