



KIIS Salzburg, Summer 2018

MUS 338 Directed Study: Instrumental & Choral Conducting

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Syllabus subject to change

Course Description:

This course serves as an introduction to the fundamental techniques and methods of instrumental and choral conducting.

Course Objectives and Outcomes

In this course we will learn the fundamental conducting techniques required of an effective conductor. Students will gain their confidence in directing choral and instrumental ensembles through increased knowledge of posture, breath, gesture, time patterns (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and subdivisions thereof), onset and offset gestures, fermatas, cues, dynamics, articulation, tempo changes, irregular meter, independence of hands, baton technique and expressive considerations. These skills will be supplemented by an analysis of related fields and their influence on expressive conducting gesture, including chironomy, the Saito method and Laban movement science. Furthermore attention will be paid to score study, conductor preparation skills, ear training, self-evaluation and critique and other pedagogical considerations.

Assessment

Short written quizzes on basic terminology in conducting and score reading.

Conducting exams.

Group work.

Reflection on recorded footage.

Analysis and reflection of other conductors at concerts or other events in Salzburg.

Grading Scale

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	<60

(Detailed grading rubrics will be provided for all practical assessments and written work)

Required Materials

Video recorder or smartphone/tablet/laptop with visual recording ability.

Conducting baton (12 inch or shorter recommended).

One average-sized tennis ball.

Set of colored pencils.

PDFs of scores and text will be made available to students for free download before departure.

Students should budget 15 Euros for sporadic costs associated with class excursions.

Course schedule:

Friday, May 25 Fundamentals: posture, anatomy, breath, preparation, downbeat, release.

Saturday, May 26 Fundamentals continued.

Sunday, May 27 Fundamentals: the conducting plane, preparatory gesture, beat patterns.

Monday, May 28 Fundamentals: Tempo, dynamics and basic style.

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Thursday, May 31      Presentations/projects due.

Friday, Jun 1      Introduction to Laban movement analysis.

Saturday, Jun 2      Fermatas, cues and the left hand.

Sunday, Jun 3      Divided and asymmetrical/changing meters.

Monday, Jun 4      Continuation: Tempo, dynamics, articulation and basic style.

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Thursday, Jun 7 Practical exercises.

Friday, Jun 8 Practical exercises.

Saturday, Jun 9 Midterms (practical).

Sunday, Jun 10 Fundamentals: Baton technique and communicating intention with instruments.

Monday, Jun 11 Fundamentals: Instrumentation and musical terms.

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Thursday, Jun 14      Presentations/projects due.

Friday, Jun 15      The Saito method & chironomy.

Saturday, Jun 16      Score study and preparation.

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| Sunday, Jun 17   | Rehearsal planning, rehearsal technique & other pedagogical considerations.      |
| Monday, Jun 18   | Conduct piece selected for score study.                                          |
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| Thursday, Jun 21 | Practical exercises. Conductor evaluations due.                                  |
| Friday, Jun 22   | Practical exercises.                                                             |
| Saturday, Jun 23 | Review, practice exam, short written exam. Final score study and reflection due. |
| Sunday, Jun 24   | Practical exam and wrap-up.                                                      |