**Instructor**: Dr. Stacie Rossow, Associate Director of Choral and Vocal Studies

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**Office Hours**: Monday & Wednesday 8:45-9:45am, Monday 12-12:50

As circumstances may occasionally prevent me from being available during these times, it is best to email me in advance. If I am not available I will do my best to set a meeting with you as soon as possible. *Please do not disturb a lesson to speak with me*. Email for a time.

**Course Description:** The basic techniques of choral conducting and an introduction to choral literature.

*Prerequisites: MUH 4211, with grade of “C” or higher; Corequisite or possible Prerequisite with a grade of “C” or higher*: *MUT 4311*

**Course Objective:** At the conclusion of the course, the student will

1. develop a fluid conducting technique that demonstrates varying articulations, dynamic levels, tempos, and preparatory gestures connected to breathing.
2. become proficient with standard beat patterns, including mixed meters, and develop the ability to cue entrances, show releases, and indicate musical expressivity with the left hand.
3. recognize inaccurate pitches and rhythms and learn how to correct them with appropriate rehearsal methods, including the ability to give clear and concise verbal instructions, maximize limited rehearsal time, indicate style and interpretation through gesture, and cultivate a discerning ear.
4. understand performance indications in multiple languages and incorporate them into performance preparation.

**Required Materials**: Text and all materials & scores posted on Blackboard are required at every class. Baton appropriate for choral conducting.

Shrock, Dennis. *Music for Beginning Conductors, An Anthology for Choral Conducting Classes.* Chicago: GIA Publications, 2011. (ISBN: 978-1-57999-778-6

**Additional Suggested Reading**:

***These texts will be placed on reserve in the S.E. Wimberly Library as reference.***

Garretson, Robert. *Choral Music: History, Style, and Performance Practice*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall,

1993.

Jeffers, Ron. Annotations and Translations of Latin Texts. - Earthsongs

Jeffers, Ron. Annotations and Translations of German Texts. - Earthsongs

**Course Requirements**:

**Students will:**

* Addend class and actively participate in class discussions
* Attend one choral concert and complete a brief write up.
* Maintain a notebook with all posted materials.
* Prepare for each class with marked scores and annotations
* Complete score annotations for every score assigned.
* Any student whose principle ensemble is NOT chorus, must observe 10 hours of FAU choral ensemble rehearsals- spaced evenly throughout the semester (half will be due at mid-term date). Failure to complete ALL required observations will lower the final grade by one full letter grade.

**Time Commitment-** Students often misjudge the amount of time necessary for successful completion a course. It is recommended that you commit at least four hours per week to this course: two hours of class and a minimum of two hours towards all course requirements and practice.

**Course Communication Policy:**

* Announcements
  + You are responsible for reading all announcements posted by the instructor. Check the announcements each time you login to be sure you have read all of them since your last login session.
* Course-related Questions
  + First read the Discussion Board to see if someone has already asked the same question.
  + Post course-related questions to the Questions/Concerns discussion board. Asking course-related questions in this way allows other participants with the same question to benefit from the responses.
  + Also, make sure you review this forum prior to posting a question; it may have already been asked and answered in previous posts.
  + Except Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, questions will be generally answered by instructors within 48 hours.
* All electronic communication must originate from a valid FAU email address
* If this course does not appear in your Blackboard list, it is likely that you are not fully registered. If you do not have blackboard, you will not receive emails, announcements, or materials for class.

**Grading Methods and Policy**:

* *Attendance and punctuality*-*-*This will form the basis of the semester grade. From that base-line the grade will be determined by all assignments and exams
* *Participation and Preparation-* students will be graded daily for their level of participation in class.
* *Essays/Term papers*- will be graded for content and style. As this is an upper-division course, students are expected to write in an appropriate style. Students will be assigned two essays (3-5 pages each), one at mid-term and one at the end of the semester. All essays will be submitted through SafeAssign for content originality PRIOR to the due date at which time a hard copy, complete with bibliography and appropriate citations, will be turned in. *Annotations*- Must be completed by the deadlines and will be submitted electronically and in the format provided. Students should also have copies of all annotations in class for discussion. *These annotations should be corrected and saved for future reference and end of the semester.*

**Grading Policy:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Attendance and Preparation | (Graded High Pass, Low Pass or Fail daily) | 10 % |
| Quizzes (3) on terms | 30 points each | 5 % |
| Conducting Tests (6) & Score annotations | 100 points each | 50 % |
| Homework Assignments and essays | varied point value (30-100) | 15 % |
| Video Self-evaluations (5) \* | 10 points each | 5 % |
| Mid-Term Self-evaluation (test 3)\* | 20 points | 5 % |
| Final Conducting Exam | 100 | 10 % |
|  | **TOTAL** | **100 %** |
| Review of two choral concerts – Required. Loss of a full letter grade if not completed | | |

* Any students whose principle ensemble is NOT chorus, must observe 10 hours of FAU choral ensemble rehearsals- spaced evenly throughout the semester (half will be due at mid-term date). Failure to complete ALL required observations will lower the final grade by one full letter grade.
* *All students are required to video record all exams. Among the acceptable means of recording – use of cell phone with min 5 min capability, digital camera, video recorder. Any student without the means to record MUST speak with the instructor during the first week of classes in order to make arrangements. Students will NOT be excused from the requirement.*

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance to class is required and is part of the final grade of the class as notated in the attendance chart portion of the grading policy

**\* Note that 4.5 or more absences (or the correlating number of tardies) will make it impossible to pass this course as required for degree.**

Attendance Chart

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of Absences | Maximum Start Value |
| 0 | 100 |
| 1-2 | 94 |
| 3 | 85 |
| 4 | 75 |
| 5 | 65 |
| Tardies count as 0.5 absences | |

* Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as serious illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities.
* Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities.
* It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absence and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. (or the day of in the case of an exam)
* Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence. (University Catalog <http://www.fau.edu/academic/registrar/FAUcatalog/academics.php>)

**Explanation of Assignments and Exams**

1. Attendance and Participation: Each student will be graded on a *pass* system daily. A *High Pass* if the student has all written material completed (Annotation, marked scores), is able to sing all parts as a chorus member, and has practiced in anticipation of class. A *Low Pass* if any part of the preparation is not complete, student is not adequately able to participate as a chorus member, or if a student is unwilling or hesitant to participate on the podium. A *Fail* will be applied if any of these mentioned areas of participation are not completed. (High Pass= 90-100, Low Pass= 72-80, Fail= 0-50)
2. Quizzes on Terms: A chart of foreign musical terms is supplied on Blackboard. There will be three 10-minute quizzes, one on each language (Italian, German, and French).
3. Conducting Tests: Students will be tested on their ability to use patterns and gestures appropriately and effectively throughout the semester. 10% of each grade will be their score Annotations
4. Score Annotations: for each score used in tests. Sample annotation posted on Blackboard
5. Homework: **Assignment #1** (What is a Conductor? 1-page answer), **Assignment #2** Creation of a 16-measure, 4-part Rhythmic exercise for conducting test. (I reserve the right to add assignments as is necessary to facilitate student learning and progress.)
6. Essays: Two essays will be assigned (topics will vary per student and will be assigned by week 2). These essays should demonstrate the student’s ability to communicate in the written medium about choral music. Each essay should be 750-1000 words of written prose (if musical examples are used then the paper will appear longer)
   1. Bibliography may not include more than one internet cite (New Grove’s Online is not considered a website in this way. It is a viable research tool and should absolutely be consulted)
   2. Paper will be checked for plagiarism and will be submitted via Blackboard
   3. Use of proper writing style (Turabian preferred, if you are using a different style, discuss

with instructor)

FOR these assignments you will 1. Submit via the Blackboard site, 2. email as a Word Document to the instructor, AND 3. submit a printed copy in class.

1. Video Self-evaluations: Must be submitted the class following a conducting test using the templates on Blackboard
2. Mid Term Evaluation: Should be summative. This evaluation should be an evaluation of the Mid-term conducting test ad should also reference all previous conducting tests. For this reason, students must keep conducting videos.
3. Final Conducting Exam: This is a more thorough and longer preparation and score.

instructor will NOT accept any papers or assignments via email in lieu of the printed copy. anythng that is to be submitted in class must be printed by the student PRIOR to classtime and given to the instructor in hard format.

**Grading Scale:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Percent** | **Final Grade** | **Percent** | **Final Grade** |
| 93-100% | A | 89-92% | A- |
| 87-89% | B+ | 83-86% | B |
| 79-82% | B- | 77-79% | C+ |
| 73-76% | C | 69-72% | C- |
| 67-69% | D+ | 63-66% | D |
| 60-62% | D- | 59% | F |

**Course Schedule:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **January 7** | Discuss Syllabus, Introduce patterns, Discuss practice strategies  Discuss Baton choices | **January 9** | **Assignment 1 DUE**  Practice patterns and intro Score markings,Discuss score marking through *All through the Night* |
| **January 14** | Stop & Start exercises & releases  Begin *All through the Night* | **January 16** | Minimal beat patterns and practice scores  Begin *Coventry Carol* |
| **January 21** | **No School** (MLK Day) | **January 23** | Practice- students take turns in front of class |
| **January 28** | Practice- students take turns in front of class | **January 30** | **Conducting Test #1 – *All through the night & Coventry Carol*** |
| **February 4** | **Self-evaluation Due**  Left hand introduction, Cues, dynamics  *Sally Gardens* | **February 6** | **Italian Terms Quiz** (10 minutes)  Practice- students take turns in front of class |
| **February 11** | Practice- students take turns in front of class | **February 13** | **February 13- Conducting Test #2- *Sally Gardens*** |
| **February 18** | **Self-evaluation Due**  Alternative patterns, Composition check up | **February 20** | **Assignment #2 Due** (4-pt Rhythmic Composition)  Practice- students take turns in front of class |
| **February 25** | **German Terms Quiz**  Practice- students take turns in front of class | **February 27** | **Essay 1 Due**  **Mid-term** **Self-evaluation due on Test 3**  **(5 hours observation completed for those not in Choral ensemble)**  Practice entrance on beats other than 1 |
| **March 11** | *Erlaube mir* practice | **March 13** | Practice- students take turns in front of class |
| **March 18** | **Conducting Test #4- *Erlaube mir*** | **March 20** | **Self-evaluation Due**  Review new meters, Dynamic articulation |
| **March 25** | Practice- students take turns in front of class: *O Shenandoah/ Flow Gently Sweet Afton* | **March 27** | Practice- students take turns in front of class: *O Shenandoah/ Flow Gently Sweet Afton* |
| **April 1** | **Conducting Test #5- O Shenandoah/ Flow Gently Sweet Afton** | **April 3** | **Self-evaluation Due**  Introduce music in compound meter |
| **April 8** | Practice- students take turns in front of class: *Greensleeves/ Johnny comes marching home* | **April 10** | **French Terms Quiz (10 minutes)**  Practice- students take turns in front of class: *Greensleeves/ Johnny comes marching home* |
| **April 15** | Practice- students take turns in front of class: *Greensleeves/ Johnny comes marching home* | **April 17** | **Conducting Test #6- Greensleeves/ Johnny comes marching home** |
| **April 22** | Prepare for final  **Concert Observation Due,**  **final observations due for those not in Choral ensemble** | **April 24** | **Essay 2 Due**  Prepare for final |
| **April 29** | **FINAL EXAM (7:45-10:15 am): Two of scores from throughout semester and/or one new score (**The Rejected Lover, Young Hunters, Lullay my Liking, and Song of the Harvesters) | | |

**Songs found on following pages:**

* *All through the Night,* p. 26
* *Coventry Carol* , p. 29
* *Sally Gardens,* p. 41
* *Erlaube mir (from blackboard)*
* *O* *Shenandoah*, p. 55
* *Flow Gently Sweet Afton*, p. 48
* *Greensleeves*, p. 81
* *Johnny* *comes* *marching* *home*, p. 71
* *The* *Rejected* *Lover*, p. 90
* *Young* *Hunting*, p. 94
* *Lullay* *my* *Liking*, p. 97
* *Song* *of the Harvesters*, p. 99

**Make up/ Late Work:**

* Work will only be accepted late and/or tests will only be given as make-ups if proper documentation is provided.
* If a student is ill and not able to attend class for the exam, they must provide written documentation, on letterhead, from the hospital, clinic, or physician stating that they were not able to attend class.
* *No make-ups will be given after one full week has expired and all work not turned in by the assigned date must be submitted within 48 hours with the proper documentation in order to be considered for full value.*
* Any assignment or submission to the instructor submitted after the class due or submission deadline without proper documentation will have 10 points deducted per day for up to three days.
* After three days, the assignment will not be accepted.

**Plagiarism Detection**:

* Each student is expected to complete his/her assignments and tests on their own.
* Any essays, including possible extra credit, that are submitted will be filtered through SafeAssign or Turnitin.
* Papers with an originality report of more than 25% non-original material will be referred to the Dean’s office for review. Plagiarism may result in academic warning.
* In addition, the paper will be considered failed and receive a grade of zero. In the case of a possible extra credit assignment, the amount that could have been added will be taken away from the final grade.
* NO MATERIAL FROM OTHER COURSEWORK WILL BE ACCEPTED. If you wish to use any portion of material previously submitted for a grade to any other course, you must first obtain permission of instructor.

**Classroom etiquette:**

* Students are expected to refrain from the use of handheld Internet or texting devices during class and may only use computers to aid in note taking. Should a student be found in violation of this etiquette, they will be asked to leave class and take the absence.
* Cell phones should be turned off or in airplane mode when videoing
* Additionally, students are asked to sit in the chairs in a proper manner and keep feet from residing on other furniture.
* Out of courtesy to other students and to the professor, students are asked to arrive in a timely manner. Please note that two tardies constitutes one absence.

**Students with Disabilities:** Disability Policy Statement: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) -- in Boca Raton, SU 133 (561-297-3880); in Davie,

LA 240 (954-236-1222); in Jupiter, SR 110 (561-799-8010); or at the Treasure Coast, CO 117 (772-873-

3441) – and follow all OSD procedures. <http://osd.fau.edu/>

**Religious Accommodation:**

* In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.
* Students who wish to be excused from coursework, class activities or examinations must notify the instructor ***in advance*** of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences.
* Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

**Incomplete Policy**: A grade of Incomplete will be assigned only in the case of extreme emergency or illness. This grade will only be assigned when such a situation precludes the students’ ability to complete the Final Performance. If such a situation should occur, the student should contact the instructor prior to the start of the performance and should be in EXTREME cases only.

**Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**: Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to

maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these

ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in

which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of

the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on

personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty.

For more information, see <http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf>