

Eastern Oregon University Course Syllabus

Number of Course:

MUS 225

Name of Course:

Basic Conducting

Catalog Description:

Basic work with baton technique, use of left hand and score reading development (including transposition and elementary score analysis), and rhythmic skill development.

Credit Hours:

3

Required Texts or Suggested Materials:

Link to the EOU Bookstore: [Eastern Oregon University Bookstore \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Prerequisites:

MUS 111 and MUS 112.

Learning Outcomes:

This course serves as the music department's Lower Division University Writing Intensive Requirement. This course meets the mission at Eastern Oregon University by challenging students to become critical, creative thinkers, open to new ways of looking at the world of arts and ideas. The main principles are developing a clear sense of the role of the conductor, techniques used by the conductor, and to improve the musical skills which a conductor uses.

- Outcome #1:
 - To demonstrate knowledge of the biographies, major works of repertoire and conducting requirements associated with major composers and their repertoire.
- Outcome #2:
 - To execute different time signature conducting patterns, different tempos to manage including ritards and accelerandos, and deal with style and articulation markings.
- Outcome #3:
 - List tempo and expressive markings in different languages, and their definitions of the essential terms that a conductor may encounter in a musical score as well as how to handle issues of leadership, motivation and organization in a musical ensemble.
- Outcome #4:
 - Demonstrate knowledge of counting and conducting in changing meters including odd meters in a consistent manner while counting out loud.
- Outcome #5:

- Three areas here,
 - To execute mixed meters
 - To develop the concept of cueing and leading a vocal and instrumental ensemble using dynamics and fermatas
 - To execute an accompaniment on piano.

Course Requirements:

Major assignments include a presentation assignment on a composer and piece that comes with a written rough draft included 3-page final written essay with a reference page, your attendance with your baton, conducting exams, mid- term exam, lesson plan assignment, journal, and final conducting exam. Attendance is mandatory and expected at each and every class. If you are absent you will be marked down with an unexcused absence unless you personally notify the instructors before the absence takes place. It is the student's duty to account for any assignments they missed while absent.

Grading Policies:

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

Means of Assessment:

Every student will be required to arrive on time to class each day with their baton. Students, who arrive after 10:00 a.m. or do not bring their baton with them that day, will not receive credit for that particular day, and will be marked with an unexcused absence. Unexcused absences will lower your grade. If you are going to be tardy or miss class, you must contact the professor to avoid grade reductions based on attendance. The conductor can never be late. If it is the case that the professor is late, all students will receive full credit that day.

- In class writing assignments:
 - These include a journal. These entries will consist primarily of analytical responses to music and methods we study in class. That may include definitions and vocabulary which you will write down and study for the mid- term written exam such as tempo markings, stylistic indications; as well as self-reflection in terms of the success and difficulties you are having with the conducting materials and assignments.
 - Students are also asked to keep a journal which will aid in the UWR requirement. The journal is your way of documenting advice, assignments, and overall observations of the course material.
 - Students must complete all UWR writing-intensive courses with a C- or better to receive credit for the course.
 - It is imperative that you use the writing center to help guide your written essay.
 - The writing center provides a place—physical or virtual—where every EOU writer can find an interested, responsive reader.

- Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU's undergraduate and graduate students who are writing for any course at any level, or who are writing resumes, job letters, graduate applications, and more. Go to eou.mywconline.com to schedule an appointment in the writing center (Ioso Hall 234).
- The written essay assignment will be correlated with the composer presentation assignment. The written part includes a rough draft that will be turned in at the time of the presentation.
- The final written copy will be turned in after the presentation date when the student has an opportunity to reflect on the response and outcome of the presentation and re-word and revise the material in the written document.
- The major component of this written essay will be program notes for the piece and composer that you choose to do your presentation on.
- Resources must be documented and quotes indicated from research materials.
- We will have a library tutorial to aid in this area.

Grade Scale:

1. Presentation assignment and written rough draft 10% (learning Outcome 1, UWR)
2. First Conducting exam 10% (learning outcome 2)
3. Final written essay 25% (learning outcome 1, UWR)
4. Mid-term Written exam 20% (learning outcome 3, UWR)
5. Mixed meter conducting exam 10% (learning outcome 4)
6. Final conducting exam 20% (learning outcome 5)
7. Journal 5% (UWR)

Brief Outline of Course:

Throughout this course, students will be introduced to and tested on the elements of basic conducting, including:

- Basic techniques, baton, preparation gesture
- Beat patterns
- Conducting pattern work
- Beat pattern and tempo work
- Cues
- Mixed meter conducting
- Music Notation and Score preparation
- Transpositions and score analysis

General Education Category and Outcomes:

NA

University Writing Requirement Outcomes:

Outcomes for lower-division UWR writing-intensive courses:

- Students will produce at least 3,000 words (including drafts, in-class writing, informal papers, and polished papers); 1,000 words of this total should be in polished papers which students have revised after receiving feedback and criticism.
- Students will be introduced to the discourse forms appropriate to the discipline the course represents.
- Students will write at least one paper integrating information from at least one source, employing the appropriate documentation style for the discipline represented by the course.
- Students will seek assistance from a Writing Tutor in the Writing Lab when needed and when referred by the instructor.
- Students will draft, revise, and edit their formal written work.
- Students must complete all UWR writing intensive courses with a C- or better. UWR writing intensive courses must allocate at least 30% of the overall grade to formal writing assignments, with at least 25% of the overall grade based on evaluation of individually written papers that have been revised and given feedback.

Writing Center Statement:

The EOU Writing Center provides a place — physical or virtual — where every EOU student can find an interested, responsive reader. Writing tutorials are free of charge for EOU undergraduate and graduate students and are available for writing at any course level and for writing resumes, job letters, and graduate applications. For drop-in hours or to schedule in-person, synchronous online, or asynchronous online tutoring, please visit the EOU Writing Center: [Writing Center – Eastern Oregon University \(opens in new tab\)](#).

Classroom Decorum:

NA

Academic Misconduct Policy:

Eastern Oregon University places a high value upon the integrity of its student scholars. Any student found responsible for an act of academic misconduct (including but not limited to cheating, unauthorized collaboration, fabrication, facilitation, plagiarism or tampering) may be subject to having his or her grade reduced in the course in question, being placed on probation or suspended from the University, or a combination of these.

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities Policy:

Any student who feels they may need accommodation for any type of disability must contact the Disability Services Office in Loso Hall, Room 233. Phone: 541-962-3081.

Disclaimer:

This standard syllabus provides only general information on the course. For those enrolled in the course a detailed syllabus will be provided by the Instructor at the beginning of the term. Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered every year.

Syllabus Prepared By:

Date:

Edited 03/30/2026