

University of Florida
College of Fine Arts
School of Music

MUG 6105 / 7106
GRADUATE & ADVANCED GRADUATE CONDUCTING
SYLLABUS

Spring Semester 2026 - Dr. Will Kesling, Instructor

Materials: Baton
 Handouts & assigned scores from UF libraries

General Objectives:

1. To master the manual technique of the baton
2. To improve score study procedures
3. To survey the ultimate goals of conducting mastery

Specific Objectives:

The student will:

1. Redefine the use of the baton.
2. Demonstrate a mastery of beating common meters with traditional patterns while conducting a score.
3. Demonstrate a mastery of beating asymmetric meters with modern patterns while conducting a score.
4. Acquire advanced methods of cuing and gain a more refined use of the left hand.
5. Continue developing manual coordination and control, as well as independence required of the body (i.e. the head and each hand.)
6. Develop an increased awareness of the impression a person creates through their physical position and motion on the podium.
7. Master the execution and control of dynamics, speed, rubato, etc ., by conducting assigned works.
8. Learn to control the five properties of beat: direction, speed, style, size and shape.
9. Acquire and master new methods of attack and release.
10. Become further exposed to the mechanics and interpretation of choral and orchestral scores.
11. Learn to communicate musical phrases.

Course Requirements:

1. Mastery of daily conducting assignments and assigned exercises: 50%
 - Conductor's Analysis
 - Prepared/Marked Score
 - Brief history of the work at hand and its importance in the composer's body of work (500 words)
2. Mid-term conducting project: 25%
 - Conductor's Analysis
 - Prepared/Marked Score

- Brief history of the work at hand and its importance in the composer's body of work (1000 words)
 - Essay discussing the salient stylistic and performance practices to interpret the work at hand.
3. Final conducting project: 25% (Contrasting Style from Midterm Selection)
- Conductor's Analysis (including diction analysis)
 - Prepared/Marked Score (including diction issues)
 - Brief history of the work at hand and its importance in the composer's body of work (1000 words)
 - Essay discussing the salient stylistic and performance practices to interpret the work at hand.

UNIVERSITY ABSENCE POLICY

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, and professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter that must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Honor Pledge that states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code, binds UF students. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated

to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Health and Wellness
U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center:

<https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)

Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu>

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

Career Connections Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <https://career.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/> ask Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>

Writing Studio, 2215 Turlington Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints On-Campus: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>

The syllabus is subject to change at any time.