

Graduate Choral Conducting, Fall 2014

***MUCD 541/641: 2 credits***

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Office Hours Tuesday 3:00pm – 4:00pm TBA

Wednesday 9:00am – 9:30am

Others by appointment

Bulletin Description

Problems of preparing and conducting contemporary choral music and major choral-orchestral works from full score; special projects according to student’s development and interests.

Prerequisites: MUCD 441/541

Course Objective:

The study, preparation, rehearsal and practice of gestural communication in the practice of conducting choral music. Emphasis will be placed on clarity, non-verbal communication, and gesture as it affects singers and audiation. The semester’s focus will be on transition passages in major works.

Instructional Methodology

Each graduate student will prepare and conduct choral repertoire. A brief analytical synopsis (see attached) of the composition will be prepared by each student *and given to each member of the class*. A digital video will be made of every conducting session and a written self-evaluation (see attached) through viewing of the video will be returned to the instructor one week following each presentation. Each graduate student will prepare a minimum of four compositions during the term and conduct each composition twice (eight sessions in total).

Materials

Students will be supplied all transition passages, for educational use only, for the conducting rotations. Choristers should be informed the session prior as to what selections will be conducted in the next conducting, to insure that the members of the course have sufficient time to prepare the given selection. Each student will be responsible for recording their own conducting sessions(s) for review and evaluation.

Conducting Rotation

To be assigned on the first day of class and is posted Blackboard. Each Student will conduct a 10-12 minute session.

Class Schedule

Graduate Choral Conducting Meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 AM – 11:50AM. The final exam will be Wednesday, December 10 from 11:00AM-1:00PM.

Grading Conducting 50 points/presentation (x8) 400

Analytical Synopsis 50 points each (x4) 200

Conducting Reviews 25 points each (x8) 200

Participation and Preparation 6 points/day (x25) 150

Improvement during semester 50 points 50

Total Possible points: 1,000

Attendance Policy: In keeping with the professional objectives of the program, the Department of Choral and Sacred Music at the University of Southern California enforces a ***strict*** policy regarding participation and punctuality.

\*Since punctuality is important to musical professionalism, a strict punctuality policy is in place and will affect the participation portion of the grade.

\* Unavoidable emergencies will be handled on an individual basis.  If an emergency occurs, (including acute, but brief, illness) the student must contact the instructor in a timely manner, followed with written notification within three days.  The instructor will determine whether the emergency is acceptable for excuse.  If the instructor does not recognize the reason as acceptable, the student may appeal.

Absences for the following reasons are considered EXCUSED:

\* Institutional excuses given five days in advance.

\* Extended illness with doctor's verification.

\* Death in the immediate family.

\* Religious holidays.  The University of Southern California has always sought to acknowledge and accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days.  It seeks to reflect its awareness and sensitivity to religious holidays whenever possible when scheduling University activities.  Each student shall, upon notifying her instructor in writing during the first week of classes, be excused from class to observe a religious holy day of her faith.

Disruptive Behavior

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students’ ability to learn and an instructor’s ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

Honor Code

Specific guidelines governing academic integrity are described in SCampus. Additional information can also be found on the Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards Web site at www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS.

Policy on Accommodations For Students with Disabilities

The University of Southern California is committed to full compliance with the Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As part of the implementation of this law, the university will continue to provide reasonable accommodation for academically qualified students with disabilities so that they can participate fully in the university’s educational programs and activities. Although USC is not required by law to change the “fundamental nature or essential curricular components of it programs in order to accommodate the needs of disabled students,” the university will provide reasonable academic accommodation. It is the specific responsibility of the university administration and all faculties serving in a teaching capacity to ensure the university’s compliance with this policy.

The general definition of a student with a disability is any person who has “a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such person’s activities,” and any person who has “a history of,” or is regarded as having, such an impairment.

Reasonable academic and physical accommodations include but are not limited to: extended time on examinations; substitution of similar or related work for a non-fundamental program requirement; time extensions on papers or projects; special testing procedures; advance notice regarding booklists for visually impaired and some learning disabled students; use of academic aids in the classroom such as note-takers and sign language interpreters; accessibility for students who use wheelchairs and those with mobility impairments; and need for special classroom furniture or special equipment in the classroom.

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**Assignments**

**Video Review and Self-Evaluation**

All students must submit video reviews of their most recent session by **10am each Monday**. A sample document will be distributed in class, and a template made available for download via Blackboard.

**Analytical Synopsis**

All students must submit an analytical synopsis of each selection they conduct. The synopsis must be distributed to the instructor and all members of the class **no later than 10am** on the day the selection in question will be conducted. The synopsis must include:

Conductor name and title of selection

Name of the composer and his or her dates

Short biography of composer

Name of the poet and his or her dates

Short biography of poet

Text, Translation and IPA

Significant Musical Features (bullet points or brief paragraph)

Potential Rehearsal Issues (bullet points or brief paragraph)