

Course title: *A cappella Choral Techniques* (to be modified as needed)

Course description: this course is designed for choral conducting majors in the TTCS Masters Degree program or graduates from this program.

Class time: Thursday 9-11 am, with final four weeks extended class time (TBD)

Recommended text:

- *The Art of Conducting*, Donald Hunsberger and Roy E. Ernst, second edition
- Additional scores and excerpts will be provided by the instructor

Course objectives: upon completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate...

- enhanced skills in all aspects of gestural conducting technique: posture, preparatory gestures, patterns, articulation (staccato, legato, etc.), dynamics, cues, cuts, fermatas
- a practical, working knowledge of the fundamentals of the singing voice and its application to both choral warm-ups and literature
- a functional knowledge of the International Phonetic Alphabet, especially as applies to choral singing of English texts
- growing skill in applying principles of intonation
- growing skill in applying principles of unified choral sound
- developing skills in the art of running a choral rehearsal
- understanding and application of the principles of phrase shaping
- growing skill in score analysis and score preparation
- a developing ear for hearing quality choral sound

週次	日 期 date	上 課 內 容 content	作 業 assignment	備 註 note
1	9/15			No class on Thursday this week
2	9/22	Review of conducting basics: posture, arm/hand position, 4- 3- 2-patterns, fermatas Group and individual conducting	Practice class work and assigned textbook excerpts. Prepare written review of choral recordings #1	
3	9/29	Review of conducting basics: cues, left-hand independence, fermatas, cuts, 1-pattern Group and individual conducting Preparation for quiz #1: 2-2	Practice class work and assigned textbook excerpts	

4	10/6	Principles of the singing voice: posture, breathing, resonance, the <i>passaggio</i> IPA and vocal diction: vowels, consonants, problem vowels and consonants IPA worksheets	Practice class work and assigned textbook excerpts	
5	10/13	IPA worksheets continued Individual conducting	Practice class work, assigned textbook excerpts, and IPA worksheets	
6	10/20	Principles of intonation: overtones, “just”, “Pythagorean”, “Equal” Playing in the sandbox with tuning exercises	Practice class work, assigned textbook excerpts, and IPA worksheets	
7	10/27	Rehearsal principles: the 12 commandments, priorities, prescription vs description, pacing, planning and review	Prepare to rehearse assigned section	
8	11/3	Rehearsal principles (cont)	Prepare to rehearse assigned section	
9	11/10	Balance and building a unified choral sound: sectional balance, choral balance	Practice class work and assigned excerpts.	
10	11/17	Choral sound (cont): singer placement within section Rehearse assigned sections	Practice class work and assigned excerpts. Write video conducting review of rehearsal session	
11	11/24	Phrase-shaping principles: melody, harmony, rhythm, style	Practice class work; prepare for rehearsal	Extended class time
12	12/1	The choral palate: rationale, exercises, application	Practice class work; prepare for rehearsal	Extended class time
13	12/8	Score preparation methods for the choral score and the choral/orchestral score	Practice class work; prepare for rehearsal	Extended class time
14	12/15	The “kitchen sink”: related and important aspects of choral leadership Conduct assigned sections	Prepare written review of choral recordings #2	Extended class time