

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA

[CLASS ]

[MUSIC]

**Expanded Course Outline**

<b>Course Subject Area:</b>	<b>MU</b>
<b>Course Number:</b>	<b>3061</b>
<b>Course Title:</b>	<b>Choral Conducting</b>
<b>Units:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>C/S Classification #:</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Component:</b>	<b>Lecture</b>
<b>Grading Basis:</b> (graded only, CR/NC only, student's choice)	<b>Graded only</b>
<b>Repeat Basis:</b> (may be taken once, taken multiple times, taken multiple times only with different topics)	<b>Taken once</b>
<b>Cross Listed Course:</b> (if offered with another department)	
<b>Dual Listed Course:</b> (if offered as lower/upper division or undergraduate/graduate)	
<b>Major course/Service course/GE Course:</b> (pick all that apply)	<b>Major</b>
<b>General Education Area/Subarea:</b> (as appropriate)	
<b>Date Prepared:</b>	<b>3/23/15</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<b>Iris Levine</b>

**I. Catalog Description**

Study of and experience in choral conducting techniques. Problem-solving and decision-making as it pertains to conducting vocal ensembles. Practical experience in implementing those decisions.

**II. Required Coursework and Background**

Prerequisite: MU3040 or MU 304

**III. Expected Outcomes**

Students will:

1. communicate a variety of gestures appropriate to choral conducting
2. develop various methods of problem solving in the choral rehearsal
3. demonstrate preliminary knowledge of choral literature
4. develop score analysis/study/preparation of methods
5. evaluate a variety of rehearsal techniques and apply to student's own rehearsal style.

The outcomes of this course relate to the following Music Department Student Learning Outcomes:

- #1: Perform a variety of music with expression and musical accuracy.
- #2: Communicate effectively--verbally and in writing--about specific musical works and musicians, about the creative process in music, and about music's role in human culture.
- #3: Demonstrate musicianship skills (including those involving technology) and conceptual understandings.
- #4: Demonstrate and articulate personal growth as a musician and student of music in the world.

**BA in the MIS Option:**

- #1. **Interpret** relationships between music and: commerce; technology; media; and audience.

**BM in Music:**

- #1. **demonstrate** a high level of musicianship that facilitates independent preparation of music for performance.
- #3. **demonstrate** basic keyboard competency as needed for musical analysis and interpretation of intermediate level repertoire.
- #4. **articulate** the distinguishing characteristics of multiple musical styles, traditions, and historical periods, **and apply** that knowledge to performance.
- #7. **demonstrate** healthy body mechanics and technique.

**BM in Music Education/Pre-Credential:**

- #2. **display** effective conducting skills for choral and instrumental ensembles.
- #3. **evaluate, select, prepare, and assess** music for performance.

**BM in Performance:**

- #1. **apply** skills for collaborative music making (including chamber music and conducting).
- #3. **discuss** pedagogy of their instrument at a foundational level.

**IV. Instructional Materials**

Fenton, Kevin. Foundations of Choral Conducting, Tallahassee,FL: USingersPublishers, 2008

Snow, Sandra. Choral Conducting/Teaching: Real World Strategies for Success, Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2009

Green, Elizabeth. Gibson, Mark. Modern Conducting, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2004.

Jordan, James. Evoking Sound: Fundamentals of Choral Conducting and Rehearsing, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Chicago, IL: GIA Publications, 2009

## **V. Minimum Student Material**

Required text, Digital Recording device

## **VI. Minimum College Facilities**

Rehearsal hall, piano, music stands, choral music from department's library, staff accompanist, digital recording device.

## **VII. Course Outline**

1. Review of basic beat patterns and discussion of alternative conducting gestures. Understanding the theory of conducting.
2. Understanding the score: analysis and preparation, score reading.
3. Rehearsal planning and techniques for successful rehearsals.
4. Review of preparations, releases and fermatas.
5. Use of the left hand. Development of coordination required in use of left hand for cueing and expressive gestures.
6. The expressive beat: conducting gestures for various dynamic levels, styles of articulation and phrasing.
7. Introduction to choral literature representative of various styles and principle genres of each historical period through conducting. Study of major choral composers.
8. Development of choral tone. Study of various schools of thought relating to tone production. Problem solving with regard to creating warm-ups, vocalizes, and overall tone production. The relationship of choral tone to style and interpretation.
9. Creating cohesive and imaginative programs suitable for various choral organizations.
10. Attending and evaluating live choral performances.

## **VIII. Instructional Methods**

1. Lecture and laboratory/problem solving
2. Demonstration with student participation.
3. Evaluation of student conducting in a "master class" environment.
4. Digital recording of student's conducting for review, analysis and self-evaluation.
5. Discussion of various approaches to problem solving and decision making regarding conducting and desired performance outcome.

## **IX. Evaluation of Outcomes**

1. Written assignments re: score study and score preparation.
2. Occasional quizzes.
3. Written final examination.
4. Attendance (required) and class participation.
5. Evaluation of student's conducting and problem-solving.
6. Evaluation of student's conducting practical final.