



Studio Policies and Syllabus for Applied Conducting - Fall 2023

MUS 3211
Credit: 2

Lesson Time/Place: FAB 200A / TBD

Instructor:

Dr. Andrew Alegría
Office: FAB 200A
Phone: (432) 837-8216
Email: andrew.alegria@sulross.edu

Office Hours:

M/W/F 2:00 PM — 3:00 PM
or by appointment

Course Description: The individual study of applied conducting, musical styles, and performance. Each conducting student is expected to conduct either the SRSU Concert Choir or the Big Bend Community Chorale while taking lessons.

Required Materials:

Bring to each lesson –

- * Three-ring binder (1 1/2 inch – 2 inches)
- * Music - as assigned
- * Pencil and eraser
- * Water in a closed container
- * Method of recording oneself, i.e. personal digital recorder, computer
- * Homework – as assigned
- * A music dictionary – online or book

Required Textbook:

Labuta, Joseph A. and Wendy K Matthews. *Basic Conducting Techniques*. 7th ed.
New York: Routledge, 2018.

Recommended Textbook:

Neuen, Donald. *Choral Concepts*. Los Angeles: Schirmer, 2002.

Course Learning Objectives

1. The student will understand basic anatomy of singing.
2. The student will scan the body for singing difficulties using body mapping.
3. The student will apply and demonstrate specific vocal exercises.
4. The student will integrate body mapping and voice to improve singing function.
5. The student will understand and analyze components of music using appropriate terminology.
6. The student will synthesize information about music and singing.
7. The student will sing in an expressive manner consistent with healthy use of the voice.
8. The student will assess singing of other singers as well as own singing.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- * SLO 1: All students will demonstrate the ability to integrate appropriate musical expression into performance.
- * SLO 2: All students will demonstrate the ability to research and prepare appropriate program notes for recitals and performance pieces.
- * SLO 3: All students will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique a musical performance.

Marketable Skills:

The music student graduating with a BM in music (instrumental or vocal performance; instrumental or vocal education; or music business) should have the following Marketable Skills:

1. Ability to collaborate and network with others to achieve a shared goal, utilizing problem solving, flexibility and improvisation, and consideration of others' thoughts and creative processes.
2. Proficiency in public speaking and writing about music, especially in teaching basic musical concepts to all ages and incorporating technology for presentation and production.*
3. Ability to prepare and perform a program of age-appropriate, relevant, and diverse repertoire, as an individual or part of an ensemble, to an audience, advocating for the arts through engaging with and serving the community.*
4. Experience using problem solving skills and abstract thinking to analyze compositions and examine their aesthetic through musical and extra-musical concepts, such as historical context and text setting.
5. Ability to create and disseminate basic marketing and public relations materials, as well as resumes, websites, and digital portfolios.

Marketable Skills specifically addressed by this course indicated with *

Course Outcomes and Assessments:

- This course will prepare the conductor for conducting either the SRSU Concert Choir or the Big Bend Community Chorale.

General Remarks:

Because singing is a whole-body experience, sometimes ‘hands-on’ work or physical contact between the instructor and student is beneficial. My instruction is often streamlined with this teaching tool, and students often find it helpful in comprehending singing concepts. ‘Physical contact’ typically deals with elements of alignment, breathing, and phonation, and the instructor is to ask permission before engaging. The student should respond at the discretion of their comfort level – yes or no. It is important to remember that physical contact is one tool among many, used judiciously as needed and intended solely to hasten the singer’s technical progress. It is not, however, a required part of voice instruction. If there are any concerns, please address them directly. If you are uncomfortable speaking to Dr. Alegría directly, you should talk with the Visual and Performing Arts Chair, Marjie Scott, to schedule a meeting.

Absence — If you must cancel a lesson, 24-hour notice is required for your instructor. Given 24-hour notice, all efforts will be made to provide a make-up lesson. If you give less than 24-hour notice, a make-up lesson is at the instructor’s discretion. The instructor will determine how many lessons may be re-scheduled. If too many lessons are postponed, the student may be asked to withdraw from the class.

Homework Assignments & Projects – Students will have different assigned projects based on their progression and current needs. They may vary between music theory/ sight singing exercises, listening projects, or repertoire projects. You will also be assigned various writing projects based on assigned readings throughout the semester. You have a Binder project requirement.

Assessment: Grading Weights and Scale:

Students who give consistent evidence of significant practicing of technique and skills, preparing lesson assignments, displaying a positive attitude, and demonstrating a level of expressiveness appropriate to the literature and personal development will receive an “excellent” grade (A). To be eligible for an “A” grade, the student must complete all assignments, attend all scheduled recital classes, **Fridays from 4:00 – 5:00 in FAB 200**, all lessons, recital hour performances, and a required number of musical events as determined by the faculty at the beginning of the semester.

- 60% of the semester grade is based on preparation for each lesson. At the end of each lesson, a grade is assigned in the following areas:
 - Lesson Preparation 20%– Assigned Homework, Practice Log, Attendance, General Improvement
 - Music Preparation 20%– Notes, Rhythms, Intervals exercises
 - Musical learning and skills (general musicianship)
 - Understanding of vocal technique
 - Performance Preparation 20% – Acting Exercise, Mono Ex., Translations, Physicalize, etc.
 - Attitude toward performance and aesthetic presentations
- 20% of the semester grade is based upon the completeness of the Binder. All areas must be adequately represented as directed in the rubric.
- 10% of the semester grade is based upon one’s growth in musical skill, aesthetic presentation, and stage presence displayed in the performances in master classes, recitals, mid-term, and the semester jury. Several members of the music faculty will evaluate the jury presentation.
- 10% of the semester grade is based upon one’s satisfactory completion of recital class requirements: **weekly attendance in class, performing the required times per semester, and concert attendance.**

Professional Communication Policy

- * All communication with me should be done either in person, text, or through email.
- * You are expected to check your SRSU email on a regular basis.

Americans with Disabilities Act:

SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact Mrs. Mary Schwartze Grisham, LPC, SRSU’s Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203 or email mschwartze@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Dr. Alegria's Conducting Studio Fall 2023

August 2023

Mon. 28 - First Day of Class

Thurs. 31 - Last Day to Change Classes

September 2023

Fri. 01 - **Music Major and Minor Meeting**
4:00 PM FAB 200 (choir room)

Mon. 04 - Labor Day (No Classes)

October 2023

Wed. 25 - Concert Choir Performance
FUMC - 6:30 PM Call / 7:30 PM Performance

Mon. 30 - Big Bend Community Band
Granada Theatre - 7:30 PM

November 2023

Wed. 22 - Fri. 24 - Thanksgiving Break

December 2023

Wed. 06 - Band and Choir Candlelight Concert
Marshall Auditorium 6:00 PM Call / 7:30 PM Performance

Thur. 07 - Dead Day

Final Exam:

Wed. 13 - Music Juries
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Disclaimer

Due to weather or an egregious situation, scheduled dates for performances and recitals may change.