

GREENVILLE COLLEGE

MUSG 221; Elementary Conducting, 2 Hours Credit

Spring, 2006, T & Th - 10:00-10:50 a.m., New Music Center Recital Hall

Dr. Jeffrey S. Wilson

Office: Rm. 203, New Music Center

Office Hours: posted on office door, & other times as arranged

Telephone: (O) 664-6561

E-Mail: jeff.wilson@greenville.edu

Course Description: An introduction to the fundamentals of conducting.

Texts and Materials: *The Modern Conductor*, Elizabeth A. H. Green, Seventh Edition, 2004 (Highly recommended); musical scores as assigned; a video mini cassette; a baton

Greenville College and Music Department Mission Statements: Greenville College transforms students for lives of character and service through a Christ-centered education in the liberating arts and sciences. The Music program purposes to help students reach their full potential as human beings and musicians. Our aim and focus is to cultivate well-prepared musicians who integrate their faith with their professional endeavors.

Course Objectives / Institutional Objectives, Teacher Education Program Outcomes (TEPO), Music Education Program Outcomes (MEPO), Dispositions: *the complete list of institutional objectives and the Teacher Education Program Outcomes may be found on the Greenville College website.*

Christian music-making is a response to a creative, redeeming, loving and just God. As faithful image bearers we are stewards of God's creation. We are called to seek truth, learn to think critically and creatively, understand and value of all creation, develop self and community understanding, value personal and corporate accomplishment, and respond to God's expression. In order to assist the student attain these goals, this course will accomplish the following objectives:

1. To develop basic understanding of and skills in musical ensemble leadership (TEPO 1, 5 & 6; MEPO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8)
2. To develop basic understanding of and skills in conducting technique (TEPO 1, 5 & 6; MEPO 2, 4, 5, 6 & 13)
3. To develop basic understanding of and skills in score reading (TEPO 1, 5 & 6; MEPO 2)
4. To develop basic understanding of and skills in rehearsal technique (TEPO 1, 5 & 6; MEPO 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 & 7).

Assessment: Objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4 are assessed through four conducting rounds in which the student leads, conducts and rehearses his classmates in a lab choir. The student also exhibits his understanding of musical leadership, conducting technique, score reading and rehearsal technique in a written exam over the readings from the textbook as well as written critiques of faculty members and college ensembles in rehearsal and performance settings.

Institutional Objectives addressed: Critical Thinking A 1-2, Awareness of Diversity in Our World B 3 & 5, Character Formation C 7-9. Dispositions: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8.

Attendance: Two absences are permitted (excused or unexcused) after which the grade will be lowered at the discretion of the instructor.

Study Time Expectations and Evaluation: Conducting is an art that requires the development of mental, emotional, aural and physical skills. Students will be expected to practice (either individually or with a

partner) the various aspects of this art regularly (i.e. forty-five minutes a day, six days a week) in preparation for class conducting assignments. Mastery of the musical score, conducting gestures and rehearsal strategies will be evaluated regularly during class sessions. Students will be expected to discuss assigned reading material orally and in writing. Final grades will be determined by class participation, written exams and conducting exams.

Grading Percentages:

Attendance and Participation -	20%
Written Work - (Tests, Exams, Observations and Critiques)	30%
Conducting Rounds -	50%

Greenville College Writing Standards: Greenville College is committed to helping students improve writing. It is reasonable to expect that any course may contain a writing component as part of the evaluation of student progress. We expect students to produce written work that is focused, well-developed, organized, and relatively free of grammatical, punctuation and spelling errors. Papers that fall short of this standard will not be accepted; the work will be returned to the students for revision within a reasonable time.

Plagiarized work will be given a zero with no opportunity to redo the work. It will also be reported to the office of the VPAA and put on file there. Repeated offenses will result in disciplinary action. See the Student Handbook.

Participation: Physical touch will periodically be used as a means of assistance in conducting exercises and instruction in this course. While it is a recommended and commonly used method, some individuals may feel uncomfortable with the use of physical touch. Student participation in this practice is strictly voluntary. In the event that the student prefers not to be touched, he/she should inform the instructor and other individuals that might have direct physical contact with his/her person. Sexual harassment is unlawful and will not be tolerated at Greenville College. (Refer to the Greenville College policy on sexual harassment in the Student Handbook for more details.)

Portfolios at Greenville College: Academic departments within the College are required to assess the impact of their programs upon the lives of students who graduate in each major. One of the ways this is done is through a student-owned portfolio containing a collection of “best works” which the student considers to be evidence of personal growth toward what the GC mission describes as “transformed lives of character and service.” The portfolio contains the StrengthsFinder, papers, projects, videotapes of performances or presentations, audio tapes of radio/music class works, and a summary of a student’s co-curricular experiences in music, athletics, ministry, newspaper or yearbook articles/photos, and volunteer service to the community. Assignments that are evidence of student excellence are drawn from courses contributing to general education, the major, the minor, leadership experiences, and service.

Students are encouraged to talk with their professors and advisor regarding the collection of best works to be included in the portfolio. Assignments and projects from any course may be included in the portfolio. Students may select the way in which their portfolio is compiled: 1) as a collection of papers within a three-ring binder or other professional folio/folder; 2) as a collection of paper or electronic files; 3) as a collection of works on a CD; or 4) as a periodically updated personal web page. Norm Hall, Dean of Student Development is coordinating a pilot project for students interested in developing web-based portfolios. If you are interested in this method, contact him at extension 7117.

Before the close of the semester, talk with your advisor and the professor teaching this course regarding

those assignments, tests, or papers you consider to be “best works” and worthy of inclusion in your portfolio.

Electronic Communications: Class communications will be sent to your students.greenville.edu address. I will also be using Blackboard to post syllabi, homework assignments and changes in schedule. **Please check your College E-mail and Blackboard regularly.**

COURSE OUTLINE

NO CLASS on January 26 ?, February 16 ? & April 20

Weeks 1-4
January 23 Introduction; Stance, Arm and Hand Position; Basic Time-Beating in Three and Four; The Preparatory Beat; The Cut-Off Gesture; The Baton; Score Preparation; Time-Beating in Two, One, Six, Five and Subdivided Beats
Readings: Green, Ch. 1-4 Scores: T.B.A.

Interval Listening Tests – February 7 & 14 (2.5% ea.) Practice Conducting Round

Weeks 5-8
February 20 The Expressive Gestures; Phrasing, Tempo Changes, Endings; Developing the Left Hand; The Fermata
Readings: Green Ch. 5-8 Scores: T.B.A.

Conducting Round #1 (10%)

Midterm Exam – February 21 (10%)

Rehearsal Observation #1 – Due March 9 (5%)

(Only one of your observations may be written about an ensemble in which you participate.)

Week 9-13
March 27 Time-Beating in Fast Fives and Sevens; Irregular Meter; Other 20th Century Innovations
Readings: Green, Ch. 9 Scores: T.B.A.

Conducting Round #2 (10%) & Conducting Round #3 (10%)

Rehearsal/Performance Observation #2 – Due April 27 (5%)

Rehearsal/Performance Observation #3 – Due May 2 (5%)

As Time Allows: Rehearsal Strategies; Melding and Psychological Conducting; Virtuoso Conducting;
Readings; Green, Ch. 10-11 Scores: T.B.A.

Week 14-15
May 1 **Final Conducting Round (#4) (20%)**