

**Course Syllabus**  
**MUS-18: Basic Conducting and Score Reading**  
**Spring 2024**

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**Instructor:** Christine Keenan  
**Office Location:** MUS 175/Zoom ID: 952 9011 5343  
**Office Hours:** MW 1:00-2:00pm  
TTh 11:00am-12:00pm  
Fridays on Zoom/by appointment  
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**Email:** [christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu](mailto:christine.keenan@reedleycollege.edu)



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**Schedule:**  
TTh 2:00-2:50 p.m.  
2 units

**Location:**  
MUS 170

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**Important Dates**

January 19: Last day to drop for full a refund  
January 26: Last day to add/Last day to drop without a “W”  
March 9: Final drop deadline (letter grades assigned after this date)

Class will not meet: March 26-28 (Spring recess)

If class is canceled other than these stated dates, there will either be advance notice given by the instructor, or an official announcement placed on the classroom door.

Final exam: Tuesday, May 14, 2:00-3:50 p.m.

**Course Description**

The course will study the fundamentals of conducting and score reading; standard patterns and baton techniques. It will include practice with recordings and college ensembles. The course is designed for the music major.

PREREQUISITES: Music 1A. ADVISORIES: English 1A or 1AH and Mathematics 3A or 45.

**Course Objectives**

*In the process of completing this course, students will:*

1. Learn all basic beat patterns.
2. Learn gestures for all basic types of beats.
3. Study scores from many different musical eras.
4. Develop a notational shorthand for use in score study.
5. Develop independence of hands.
6. Practice conducting with recordings and live ensembles.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

*Upon successful completion of the course, students will:*

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct a large or small ensemble using correct beat patterns and gestures.

## **Required Textbook**

*Basic Conducting Techniques*, eighth edition. Joseph A. Labuta and Wendy K. Matthews. Pearson Prentice Hall. (additional readings as assigned by instructor)

## **Other Required Materials**

- Conducting baton (white finish, 12-14")  
Available from Gottschalk Music Center, 328 Pollasky, Clovis or Patrick's Music, 769 E. Barstow, Fresno, and online from GL Custom Batons ([www.glcustombatons.com](http://www.glcustombatons.com)) or Newland Batons (<http://www.newlandbatons.com>)
- Video recording device and tripod/stand
- Metronome with subdivision capability
- Colored pencils for score marking

## **Student Expectations**

- Students are expected to attend all class sessions and participate in all activities.
- Students should come to class on time and prepared to learn.
- Students are expected to work together in a positive and cooperative manner.
- If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to check for any assignments and announcements.
- Come dressed for class in appropriate attire that allows movement – no pajamas or hats.
- Cell phones should be turned off or to the silent position.
- No food, gum, or drinks (besides bottled water) are allowed in class.

## **Grading Criteria**

Conducting Tests with Written Reflections (40%)

4 tests @10% each

Written Assignments (30%)

3 assignments @10% each (2 Observations, Score Map/Marked Score)

In-class Assignments (20%)

Final Conducting Exam (10%)

## Grading Scale

A = 90-100% B = 80-89% C = 70-79% D = 60-69% F = 0-60%

### **Late work and make-up work policy**

Late assignments will be accepted but graded one full grade lower for each week (or portion of a week) that the work is late. Unexcused absences do not constitute changing an assignment due date. If you are absent from class, you are still responsible for the information and assignments you missed. There will be no make-ups for missed exams without prior arrangements with the instructor. The final exam is required.

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (i.e., Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Academic Honesty and Disruption**

For detailed information regarding Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, and Disruption, please see pages 46-47 of the Reedley College Catalogue. Please turn off and stow all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Students may be dismissed from class and counted as absent for creating excessive disruptions.

### **Changes to the Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be made in writing and distributed to all members of the class, either in person or electronically.

### **Course Content Outline**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
Week 1–2	Chapter 1: The Baton, Preparation, Downbeat, and Release Chapter 2: Beat Patterns and Preparations in Tempo, Dynamic, and Basic Style	
Week 3–4	Chapter 9: Conducting Musical Styles Chapter 10: Expressive Conducting & the Left Hand	Exam 1
Week 5–7	Chapter 3: Preparations and Releases for All Counts Chapter 4: Fractional Beat Preparations	Observation 1
Week 8–10	Chapter 5: Divided Meters Chapter 6: Asymmetrical Meters	Exam 2
Week 11–12	Chapter 7: Fermatas	Exam 3
Week 13–14	Chapter 8: The Cue	Observation 2
Week 15–16	Chapter 12: Analysis and Score Preparation	Exam 4
Week 17	Final Review	Score Map/Marked Score
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>Tuesday, May 14, 2:00-3:50 p.m.</i>	