Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.
COURSE SYLLABUS

WMUS 514
BASIC CONDUCTING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Basic instruction in conducting techniques for worship leaders in traditional and non-traditional worship settings. Knowledge and skill areas include: posture and hand position; baton usage; foreign and technical terms; conducting gestures and patterns; basic score interpretation; and, rehearsal management and technique.

RATIONALE

Professional music training requires that a person be able to rehearse and conduct musical ensembles, both instrumental and choral. The purpose of WMUS 514 is to teach basic conducting gestures and ensemble rehearsal techniques. This course applies the student’s knowledge of musicianship, musical style, and rehearsal and performance discipline.

I. PREREQUISITES

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the Academic Course Catalog.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
C. Microsoft Word

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Articulate the role of the conductor in relation to choral and instrumental performing groups.
B. Demonstrate basic analytical and gestural conducting skill.
C. Analyze a vocal and instrumental score for the purpose of teaching and conducting an ensemble (choral and/or instrumental).
D. Demonstrate competency in the conducting of choral entrances on any part of any beat of any meter.
E. Articulate basic rehearsal strategies for choral and instrumental ensembles.
V. Course Requirements and Assignments

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes

B. Course Requirements Checklist
After reading the Course Syllabus and Student Expectations, the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

C. Discussion Board Forums (4)
Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300 words and incorporate 2 course-related references. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 4 other classmates’ threads and incorporate 1 course-related reference. Each reply must be 150 words.

D. Conducting Analysis Chart (8)
The student will submit an analysis chart for each module/week based upon 1 piece of music from that module/week’s examples. Each chart will be for a piece of music being conducted in that particular module/week, reflecting the meter/tempo and other musical examples studied in that module/week, as well as content from previous modules/weeks.

E. Gestural Conducting (8)
The student will upload a 3-minute video of the Gestural Conducting assignment for each module/week (8 total uploads, 1 per module/week). The video upload will demonstrate the student’s command of the conducting gestures studied in each module/week.

F. Reflection Papers (2)
The student will write a Reflection Paper addressing topics related to the material in the assigned module/week. Each paper will be made up of 2 parts. The student must write at least 300 words per part for a total of at least 600 words. The paper must conform to current Turabian format.

G. Music Literacy Exercises (5)
The student will use materials from the Basic Music Reading Skills Course to prepare for a lesson as if he/she were teaching a class of his/her own. The student must identify designated literacy elements.

G. Score Marking Exercise
The student will mark measures 1–44 of “Hodie Christus” as directed.

H. Music Rhythm Exercise
The student will write the “count-sing” numbers as they apply to the sung parts of a specified song.

I. Rhythm Identification Exercise
The student will indicate how many rhythm patterns are present in the music and note the first occasion of each pattern by measure number. The student will identify and explain the rhythm patterns in the designated measures.

J. Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will cover materials from Modules/Weeks 1–4. The midterm exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 10 essay questions, and have a 1-hour time limit.

K. Final Exam

The final exam will cover materials from Modules/Weeks 5–8. The final exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 9 essay questions, and have a 1-hour time limit. The final examination will also require a video upload of 2 videos; a 3-minute video that teaches a piece of music to an ensemble, and a 3-minute video that conducts an uninterrupted piece of music.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Requirements Checklist</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Forums (4 at 40 pts ea)</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conducting Analysis Chart (8 at 20 pts ea)</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gestural Conducting (8 at 30 pts ea)</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection Papers (2 at 60 pts ea)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Literacy Exercises (3 at 15 pts ea)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score Marking Exercise</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Rhythm Exercise</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm Identification Exercise</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (Modules/Weeks 1–4)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Modules/Weeks 5–8)</td>
<td>90</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total 1010

B. Scale

D- = 680–699   F = 0–679

C. Late Assignment Policy

If the student is unable to complete an assignment on time, then he or she must contact the instructor immediately by email.

Assignments that are submitted after the due date without prior approval from the instructor will receive the following deductions:

1. Late assignments submitted within one week of the due date will receive a 10% deduction.
2. Assignments submitted more than one week late will receive a 20% deduction.

3. Assignments submitted two weeks late or after the final date of the course will not be accepted.

4. Late Discussion Board threads or replies will not be accepted.

Special circumstances (e.g. death in the family, personal health issues) will be reviewed by the instructor on a case-by-case basis.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.
## COURSE SCHEDULE

**WMUS 514**


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODULE/WEEK</th>
<th>READING &amp; STUDY</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>POINTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1           | Hill: chs. 1–5  
Sharp: Introduction, chs. 1, 6 (part 1)  
Bible Readings  
4 presentations  
1 website | Course Requirements Checklist  
Class Introductions  
Conducting Analysis Chart 1  
Gestural Conducting 1  
Reflection Paper 1 | 10  
0  
20  
30  
60 |
| 2           | Hill: chs. 6–7  
Sharp: chs. 1 (appendix), 6 (part 2), 7  
4 presentations | DB Forum 1  
Conducting Analysis Chart 2  
Gestural Conducting 2  
Music Literacy Exercise 1 | 40  
20  
30  
15 |
| 3           | Hill: ch. 8  
Sharp: chs. 2, 3 (appendix B), 6 (part 2)  
4 presentations | Conducting Analysis Chart 3  
Gestural Conducting 3  
Music Literacy Exercise 2  
Score Marking Exercise | 20  
30  
15  
25 |
| 4           | Hill: chs. 9–10  
Sharp: chs. 4, 6 (part 2; appendix B)  
4 presentations | DB Forum 2  
Conducting Analysis Chart 4  
Gestural Conducting 4  
Midterm Exam | 40  
20  
30  
100 |
| 5           | Hill: ch. 11  
Sharp: chs. 5, 6 (part 4)  
4 presentations | DB Forum 3  
Conducting Analysis Chart 5  
Gestural Conducting 5  
Music Literacy Exercise 3 | 40  
20  
30  
15 |
| 6           | Hill: chs. 12–13  
Sharp: ch. 6 (part 3; appendix A)  
4 presentations | Conducting Analysis Chart 6  
Gestural Conducting 6  
Music Rhythm Exercise  
Rhythm Identification Exercise | 20  
30  
30  
30 |
| 7           | Hill: chs. 14–15  
4 presentations | DB Forum 4  
Conducting Analysis Chart 7  
Gestural Conducting 7 | 40  
20  
30 |
| 8           | Review previous readings  
Bible Readings | Conducting Analysis Chart 8  
Gestural Conducting 8  
Reflection Paper 2  
Final Exam | 20  
30  
60  
90 |
|             | **TOTAL** | **1010** |        |

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE**: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.