



Syllabus

15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

COURSE: MU334 T TN Basic Conducting (Blended)
CREDIT: 2 Semester Hours
SEMESTER: Fall 2026/16 weeks
DAY/TIME/LOCATION: Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 p.m. – 12:20 p.m./ E. Ed room 109
INSTRUCTOR: Heather Schouten
heather.schouten@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

A foundational study of song-leading, rehearsing and conducting techniques, information, and materials for the church and school choral director. Includes rehearsing and conducting a variety of basic choral literature in class and using a laboratory group.

*This is a blended class, meaning that both campus students and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom.

II. OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

- A. Develop functional techniques for congregational song-leading
 - 1. PLO 1. 2.
 - 2. A, C
- B. Establish foundational skills for rehearsing and conducting a choir
 - 1. PLO 1. 2. 3. 4.
 - 2. A, C
- C. Gain knowledge for working with choirs of all age
 - 1. PLO 1.
 - 2. A, B, C, D, E, G
- D. Build and organize a good choral program for church or school
 - 1. PLO 1. 4.
 - 2. A, B
- E. Learn how to select music and establish a choral library
 - 1. PLO 1. 2. 4.
 - 2. A, B, D, E, F

Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

- A. Demonstrate the skills of conducting all patterns necessary for choral directing and congregational song-leading through in-class assignments.
 - 1. PLO 1. 4.
 - 2. A, B, H
- B. Show development of basic and advanced conducting skills, including preparatory motion, cuing, cut-offs, fermatas, accents, syncopation, subito, tempo changes, meter and dynamics through in-class conducting assignments.
 - 1. PLO 1. 4.
 - 2. A, B, C, H
- C. Exhibit basic rehearsing skills through in-class rehearsing assignments.
 - 1. PLO 1. 4.
 - 2. A, C
- D. Show functional knowledge and techniques necessary to effectively work with different age-group choirs through in-class assignments, projects, and reading.
 - 1. PLO 1. 2. 3. 4.
 - 2. A, B, C, D, E, G
- E. Demonstrate techniques and knowledge necessary to build a good church or school choral program, including style, interpretation, reading, balance, blend, tone, diction, intonation, recruiting, voice classification, seating, budget, and much more.\
 - 1. PLO 1. 2. 3. 4.
 - 2. A, B, D, E
- F. Exhibit skills and information needed to select good choral music and organize a choral library through projects, tests and demonstration.
 - 1. PLO 1. 2. 4.
 - 2. B, C, F, H

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Personal conducting practice outside of class.** Each week there will be song-leading, conducting and/or rehearsing assignments that the student will need to work on outside of class and present in class for constructive help, improvement, and grading. The student is expected to spend at least 1- 2 hours per week on conducting practice or rehearsal preparation.
- B. **Reading.** The student should expect to spend 1-2 hours per week on required reading.
- C. **Research Project.** Do a research project on working with either a children's, middle or high school choir or church choir. Present a written paper as well as an oral summary of the project to the class. This will be a cooperative project with other students. More details will be given by the instructor.
- D. **Choral listening and/or choral concert attendance.** The student is to listen to a minimum of 1-2 hours of choral music. This may be fulfilled by listening to recordings and/or by attending non-Calvary choral concerts. More details regarding what is to be listened to and report forms will be given by the instructor.
- E. **General concert attendance.** The student is required to attend the fall events of the Calvary Fine Arts Series. If the student is not able, for an approved reason cleared with

the instructor, to attend one of the Calvary Fine Arts events, they may locate another appropriate concert in the Kansas City area approved by the instructor. The student is also required to attend any Calvary senior recitals scheduled this semester.

- F. **Final exam.** There will be **two parts** to the final exam. **Part I** will be a conducting final reflecting the student's progress on song-leading and conducting techniques learned. **Part II** will be a practical written exam covering all reading and in-class materials. The final exams will be administered during exam week. See separate Exam schedule for when in-class exam will take place for this course.

V. METHODS

- A. In-class methods will include lecture, demonstration, practice, discussion, song-leading, conducting, rehearsing, listening, and oral presentation.
- B. Out-of-class methods will include personal practice, reading, observation, research, completion of projects, listening, and study.

VI. MATERIALS (REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS)

- A. Holy Bible
B. *Foundations of Choral Conducting* by Kevin Fenton

https://www.jwpepper.com/Foundations-of-Choral-Conducting/10047701.item?srsltid=AfmBOooYw6UbUr_uhS7ecBrgqFGjwL6eO9sWzbSxbJeUGTqWhmNNHiBe

UPC: 9780981481722 Publisher ID: 9780981481708 \$55.00

VII. GRADING

Weekly Reading Assignment, Attendance, Attitude, Song-leading, Conducting, Rehearsing, Score marking	30%
Research Project I: written report & oral report	30%
Choral listening/attending one chorale concert with the instructor (1-2 hours)	10%
Final exams	30%
Total	100%

VIII. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IX. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may

be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

- Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
- The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- In-class attendance and discussion is mandatory and is part of the student’s overall final grade.
- All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update.
- Grading Scale: See grading scale in the university catalog.

***Carnegie Unit Worksheet**

Assignments	External/Online
	Hours
“Seat Time” in class	40
Observations	6
Assignments +Research Projects	42
Final	2
Total	90

