Eastern Illinois University
Revised Course Proposal
MUS 2155, Conducting I

1. Catalog Description
   a) MUS 2155
   b) Conducting I
   c) 3-0-2
   d) F
   e) Conducting I
   f) A course designed to teach the language and gestures of effective conducting from both vocal and instrumental perspectives. The class serves as a laboratory chorus and an instrumental ensemble. For Music Majors and Music Minors only.
   g) Prerequisite: Completion of MUS 1502 with a "C" or better
   h) Initial term to be offered: Fall 2003

2. Objectives and Evaluation of the Course
   a) Upon completion of the course, students will be able to demonstrate:
      1. appropriate baton grip;
      2. preparatory position for starting on the count of one in all meters;
      3. preparatory position for starting on counts other than one;
      4. preparatory beat for the downbeat in all meters;
      5. preparatory beat for counts other than the downbeat;
      6. preparatory beat for the count of one that indicates appropriate tempo, dynamic level, and style for fractional pickup notes and between-beat starts;
      7. proper wrist action to define the exact point of beat;
      8. basic release gesture;
      9. release on all counts of all meters;
      10. standard beat patterns, maintaining a steady tempo;
      11. beat divisions in simple and compound meters;
      12. styles of beating, including legato, staccato, marcato, tenuto and neutral (non-expressive);
      13. fermata, with a release and caesura of appropriate length, and a subsequent preparatory beat;
      14. fermata with the release gesture used as a preparatory beat;
      15. fermata without release but with a preparatory gesture to signal resumption;
      16. cueing gestures with the left hand, baton, and head nod, with eye contact and preparation for each;
      17. independent and effective use of the left hand to signal dynamics, subito changes, accents, phrasing and balance;
      18. changing meters and asymmetrical patterns in slow and fast tempi;
      19. gradual and subito changes in tempo and the ability to accompany.
   b) Assessment of objective achievement includes the following:
      Conducting 60%
      Includes classroom and individual conducting and video review
      Journal writing 10%
      Midterm exam and project 15%
      Final exam and project 15%
c) This is not a technology-delivered course.
d) This course is not numbered 4750-4999.
e) This course is not writing-active, writing-intensive, or writing-centered.

3. Outline of the Course
   a) This class will meet for 45 fifty-minute class periods over 15 weeks.
      Week 1  Introduction, stretching exercises for conductors, Jacques-Dalcroze
              warm-up exercises
              The baton: preparation, downbeat, and release
      Week 2  Beat patterns and preparations in tempo, dynamic and basic styles
      Week 3  Introduction to analysis/score preparation, clef reading
              The rehearsal/lesson plan
      Week 4  Preparations and releases for all counts
              Private conducting lesson
      Week 5  Fractional beat preparations
      Week 6  Divided meters
      Week 7  Conducting musical styles
      Week 8  The fermata
      Week 9  Private conducting lesson and midterm project
      Week 10 Private conducting lesson and midterm project
      Week 11 The cue and the left hand
      Week 12 Asymmetrical and changing meters
      Week 13 Tempo changes and accompanying
      Week 14 Putting it all together: final project and private conducting lesson
      Week 15 Putting it all together: final project and private conducting lesson

4. Rationale
   a) Purpose and need: All music students, whether Performance or Music Education
      majors, are required to take conducting. This introductory conducting course that
      combines instrumental and choral conducting techniques, is the first course in a revised
      conducting sequence. Self-study within the department has identified the need for a
      unified beginning-level conducting course to address the fundamentals and
      commonalities of conducting. This provides the opportunity for more specialized study of
      conducting techniques in the second course of the sequence. Also, the Type-10
      teaching certificate issued to Music Education students allows them to teach P-12 in all
      areas of music, including Vocal Music 5-12, and Instrumental Music 5-12. In a survey
of EIU graduates teaching music in public schools, many of them report that a revision of
the conducting sequence was necessary to better prepare them for working with school
ensembles. The revision of the course also addresses areas of weakness as identified
by the Music Department in meeting the Illinois Teacher Content Standards in music.

This class centers on the essential competencies in beginning conducting which are
common to both vocal and instrumental music. It is designed to provide choral
conducting experiences for instrumental concentration students and instrumental
cconducting experiences for vocal and general music concentration students. The ability
to communicate musical and expressive intent to an ensemble through gesture is
essential for those seeking teacher certification as well as students in performance
degree programs.

b) This is an introductory-level course. The prerequisites of MUS 1541 and
MUS 1542 ensure that students have basic music theory and piano skills.
c) This course is not similar to any other courses offered by the Music Department. It will
replace MUS 2360 for Instrumental Concentration students, and is significantly
rewritten for students in Vocal and General Music Concentrations.
d) This course will be required for all Music Majors and Music Minors.

5. Implementation
   a) This course may be assigned to Richard Rossi, Patricia Poulter, Dennis Hayslett,
Richard Barta.

b) Students will be required to provide their own conducting baton at a minimum cost of
$5.00.

NJ: Prentice Hall.

6. Community College Transfer
   A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

7. Date approved by the department

8. Date approved by the college curriculum committee

9. Date approved by CAA