Eastern Illinois University  
Revised Course Proposal  
MUS 3155, Choral Conducting and Literature

1. Catalog Description
   a) MUS 3155  
   b) Choral Conducting and Literature  
   c) 2-0-1  
   d) S  
   e) Choral Cond/Lit  
   f) Focuses on the cognitive learning, skills, and motivation necessary to conduct and provide leadership for choral ensembles. Emphasis on significant choral repertoire, knowledge of conducting styles performance practice, and rehearsal techniques. The class serves as a laboratory chorus and instrumental ensemble.  
   g) Prerequisites: MUS 2155 or its equivalent  
   h) Initial term to be offered: Spring 2004

2. Objectives and Evaluation of the Course
   a) Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:
      1. demonstrate, with increasing skill, the physical gestures required for competent conducting;  
      2. demonstrate increased awareness of significant choral repertoire appropriate for ensembles grades 4 - 12, including works which are representative of a variety of historical periods and cultural sources;  
      3. complete a score preparation including harmonic and form analysis, translation of foreign terms, clef reading, and style requirements;  
      4. elicit desired musical results through effective rehearsal techniques;  
      5. demonstrate skills in recognizing and teaching correct intonation;  
      6. exhibit error detection skills appropriate for the music being taught;  
      7. demonstrate detailed knowledge of the physical and artistic aspect of choral conducting as well as organizational aspects of ensemble rehearsal techniques.  
   b) Assessment of objective achievement includes the following:
      Conducting 60%  
      Includes classroom and individual conducting, video review, classroom participation, attendance, peer evaluations, score preparation and clef reading  
      Journal entries 10%  
      Listening assignments 10%  
      Final project (written and conducting) 20%  
   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 course will meet for 30 fifty-minute class periods over 15 weeks.  
   Week 1  Review of beginning conducting  
   Week 2  Review clef reading and score preparation  
           The vocal warm-up: How to effectively warm-up the choral ensemble  
   Week 3  The Baroque period: How to conduct a Baroque musical selection
The class serving as a laboratory ensemble
Principles of style, performance practice, and rehearsal techniques

Week 4 The Baroque period (continued)
Emphasis on basic conducting style utilizing Baroque performance practice and rehearsal techniques

Week 5 The Baroque period (cont.):
A complete choral rehearsal, including vocal warm-ups, a rehearsal lesson plan, and a complete score preparation

Week 6 The Classical period: How to conduct a Classical musical selection
The class serving as a laboratory ensemble
Principles of style, performance practice, and rehearsal techniques

Week 7 The Classical period (cont.):
Emphasis on basic conducting style utilizing Classical performance practice and rehearsal techniques

Week 8 The Classical Period (cont.):
A complete choral rehearsal, including vocal warm-ups, a rehearsal lesson plan, and a complete score preparation

Week 9 The Romantic period: How to conduct a Romantic musical selection
The class serving as a laboratory ensemble
Principles of style, performance practice, and rehearsal techniques

Week 10 The Romantic period (cont.):
Emphasis on basic conducting style utilizing Romantic performance practice and rehearsal techniques

Week 11 The Romantic Period (cont.):
A complete choral rehearsal, including vocal warm-ups, a rehearsal lesson plan, and a complete score preparation

Week 12 The 20th Century/Contemporary: How to conduct a 20th Century/Contemporary musical selection
The class serving as a laboratory ensemble principles of style, performance practice, and rehearsal techniques

Week 13 The 20th Century/Contemporary (cont.):
Emphasis on basic conducting style utilizing 20th Century/Contemporary performance practice and rehearsal techniques

Week 14 The 20th Century/Contemporary (cont.):
A complete choral rehearsal, including vocal warm-ups, a rehearsal lesson plan, and a complete score preparation

Week 15 Course review
Final project assignments
4. Rationale
   a) Purpose and need: All music students, whether Performance or Music Education majors, are required to take conducting. The revised sequence, with an introductory conducting course that combines instrumental and choral conducting techniques, provides the opportunity for more specialized study of choral conducting techniques in this course. Also, for Music Education majors, the Type-10 teaching certificate allows them to teach P-12 in all areas of music: General Music P-8, Vocal Music 5-12, Instrumental Music 5-12, Orchestra 5-12, as well as secondary-level non-performance courses such as Music Appreciation and Music Theory. 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.
   b) The upper division course number and prerequisites allow students to bring a specific and necessary skill set to this course.
   c) This course, as presented, represents significant revision. This is due to the revised conducting sequence, the revised MUS 3440 course, and overall revision of the Music Education Curriculum to meet the Illinois Teacher Content Standards in Music. The course number has been changed to make the sequence numbering more logical than it had been in the past.
   d) This course is required of all Music Majors with vocal music as their concentration.

5. Implementation
   a) This course may be assigned to Richard R. Rossi or Patricia Poulter.
   b) Students will be required to provide a blank videotape.

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: April 17, 2003