

**UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
COMPOSITION 4629
2023-2024
Dr. Paul Frehner**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFO:

Dr. Paul Frehner: TC-339, (519) 661-2111 extension 85335, pfrehner@uwo.ca
Office hours: by appointment

MEETINGS

This course will primarily consist of weekly private studio lessons held in the instructor's office.

The entire class will meet during the official group meeting time *occasionally* during the year. These meetings may consist of one or more of the following: lectures by the instructor, analysis and discussion of repertoire, student presentations, discussions of student in-progress compositions, guest lectures, etc.... Any group meetings will be announced at least 1 week ahead of time. You must keep the allotted lecture time free of conflicts in order to attend these occasional sessions.

Please note:

In weeks in which there are group meetings it is possible that individual private lessons will not take place.

There will not be any online asynchronous audio/video content provided by the instructor.

DESCRIPTION AND ACTIVITIES

Works in medium-sized forms for solo instruments and chamber ensembles. Analysis with an emphasis on contemporary literature.

As mentioned above, 4629 consists almost entirely of one-on-one lessons. These consultations will focus on the following: the participants' in-progress and completed compositions; any related in-progress and completed assignments and exercises; and discussions and analyses of selected contemporary music repertoire. Students will complete at least three compositions based on parameters as defined by the instructor in consultation with the student. Students are expected to actively engage in refining the focus and methodology of their compositional approach through the creative process. Finally, each student will give a 45-minute oral analytical presentation on a piece from the contemporary repertoire. Students may be called upon to participate in readings of their own works and the works of their colleagues.

Learning Outcomes:

Students can expect to:

Continue to develop their fluency and skills related to the art of contemporary music composition.

Gain an understanding of certain composers' compositional methodologies through the analysis of pertinent repertoire.

Deepen their knowledge of instrumentation and contemporary instrumental techniques

Gain valuable insight into the collaborative process of working a new composition towards a premiere performance

Begin to develop an artistic voice

COURSEWORK

Composition Projects and Deadlines

Composition #1: a work for chamber ensemble*, duration 4-5 minutes
due October 27, 2023, submit PDF of score on OWL by 11:59 pm
Hard copies of scores and parts will be due at a later date - TBA

Composition #2: a 7-minute piece for the Chamber Music Concert (April 5, 2023),
- details TBA – due February 15, 2024**

Composition #3: the parameters for this composition will be established in consultation
between the instructor and the student, due April 8, 2023, on OWL by 11:59 pm.

**Instrumentation TBA.*

***Students in 4629 will participate in the Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative. Composer assignments to specific chamber ensembles are prioritized by course number (high to low) and grades and other meritorious factors. Decisions are made by a committee of MPS and MRC faculty organizers. A separate document with pertinent details and important dates will be distributed in late September/early October. The deadline for submitting the score and parts for Composition #2 might change once details of the collaboration are finalized by MPS and MRC faculty.*

Analytical Presentation

Each student will give one 45-minute analytical presentation on a large-form work by a contemporary composer. These will take place during the group meeting time on Monday, March 18, 2024. Details for the presentations will be provided at a later date.

Other Work

Other work, including short compositions, arrangements, exercises, analytical assignments, readings and listenings will be assigned from time to time, either on an individual basis or to the entire class.

EVALUATION

Composition 1: 20%*

Composition 2: 25%*

Composition 3: 20%*

Analytical Presentation: 15%

Concert Attendance (2) and Written Reviews (2): 5%**

Attendance, Preparation and Participation: 15%***

*Evaluation of evaluation compositional work will consider the following:

Musicality

Originality and creative thinking

Clarity of compositional methodology and approach

Musical form and cohesiveness of the composition

Craft, instrumentation and orchestration

Professionalism in the score preparation

Professionalism in collaboration with other musicians

**Students are required to attend two concerts that features at least three contemporary classical musical works that composed since the year 2000 and write a 2-page review of the compositions/performances.

***Attendance and engaged participation are mandatory for this course. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of private lessons and group meetings to pass the course. If a private lesson must be missed it may be rescheduled provided the student gives the instructor at least 24 hours of notice.

There are no examinations in this course.

IMPORTANT DATES

*Dress rehearsal for Chamber Music/ Student Composers Concert, dates TBA

*Events for which attendance is mandatory. Students must also attend the dress rehearsal for their respective compositions, times TBA.

Attendance is mandatory for the events listed above. Students must also attend the dress rehearsal for their respective compositions, times TBA.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- A three-ring binder where score excerpts and exercises can be organized.
- A notebook where lecture and discussion notes can be written.
- Professional quality manuscript paper, such as Carta no. 25; Staedler 2B or 3B pencil; pencil sharpener; eraser; ruler.
- A professional quality notation program. Educational pricing is available from the manufacturers.
- A method for printing your work (i.e., photocopier, laser printer).

Textbook, Scores and Recordings

There is no textbook for this course. Students will be asked as needed to bring score and audio materials for discussion. Reading and listening materials are usually available in the Music Library or through the library's online services, through Interlibrary Loans, or through other online resources.

Relevant Reference Books:

Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*. (3rd ed.) New York: Norton, 2002. ISBN: 039397572X MT70.A3 2002

Solomon, Samuel, *How to Write for Percussion: a comprehensive guide to percussion composition*, second edition, NY NY: Oxford University Press, 2016 MT40.S82

Stone, Kurt, *Music Notation in the Twentieth Century*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1980. MT35.S87

Heussenstamm, George, *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1987. MT35.H55 1987

Karkoschka, Erhard, *Notation In New Music: A critical Guide to Interpretation and Realisation*, (Translated by Ruth Koenig) New York: Praeger, 1972 MT35.K185 S33 1972

Morgan, Robert P., editor. *Twentieth-Century Music: a history of musical style in modern Europe and America*, New York : Norton, 1991 ISBN 0-393-95272-X ML197.M675

Important University Policy Information

i) **Course Prerequisites:** MU3629 with an average of 70% or greater. Please make certain that you have the appropriate prerequisites for this course. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade

of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

The student may use a laptop to take notes, view scores, etc. However, any computer activity not specifically related to the lecture topic is unacceptable, and student will be asked to leave the class if they violate this policy. Students must turn cell phones off during and consultations.

xi) **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including

emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

Other important dates, 2022-2023:

First Term

Thu. Sept. 8- Thu. Dec. 8

First Day of Term	Sept. 7
Thanksgiving Monday (Stat Holiday)	Oct. 9
Fall Reading Week (no UG Classes)	Oct. 30-Nov 5
Last day of 1 st term classes	Dec. 8
Study Day	Dec. 9

Second Term

Mon. Jan. 9-Mon. Apr. 10

First Day of Term	Jan. 8
Reading Week (no UG Classes)	Feb. 17-25
Family Day (Stat Holiday)	Feb. 19
Good Friday (Stat Holiday)	March 29
Last day of 2nd-term classes	April 8
Study Days	April 9-10

P. Frehner, September 2023