

Western University  
Don Wright Faculty of Music  
Syllabus: Applied Trombone Instruction  
Fall/Spring 2023-2024

*Applies to the following course numbers:*

- *With masterclass: 1920, 2920, 2921, 3920, 3921, 3922, 4920, 4921, 4922, 4923*
- *Without masterclass: 1925, 2925, 3925, 3929, 4925, 3924y, 4924y, 4929*
- *Graduate: 9509a, 9584b, 9585a, 9786b*

**Instructor:** Denis Jiron  
**Phone:** (519) 661-2111 x84318  
**Office hours:** by appointment

**Email:** [djiron3@uwo.ca](mailto:djiron3@uwo.ca)

**Course Objective:** Weekly applied lessons provide students with an opportunity to grow as a musician and trombonist. Because the course is mostly taught one-on-one, everyone will have a different experience, including their repertoire, technical materials, and concepts covered. However, common themes include response, tone, range, flexibility, power, finesse, dexterity, endurance, and versatility. Moreover, as musicians, all of us deal with literacy, rhythm, cultural knowledge, style(s), expressiveness, health, and performance psychology.

**Important dates:**

Nov. 10, 2023 - Vanessa Fralick Masterclass  
Oct. 20, 2023 - Denis Jiron Recital  
Dec. 5, 2023 - Trombone Studio Recital  
Jan. 26, 2024 - James Miller Masterclass  
Jan. 27, 2024 - Brass Day and James Miller Recital  
Feb. 12, 2024 - Trombone Studio Recital

**Lesson Format/Scheduling:** A weekly lesson time is to be scheduled with the instructor no later than the end of the first week of classes. 12 total lessons of 50 minutes each per semester, *except:*

- performance majors enrolled in 3921, 4921, 4922, 4923 receive an extra 12 lessons per year
- students enrolled in 3924y and 4924y receive 12 weekly lessons of 30 minutes each

Lessons will be taught in person unless directed otherwise by the faculty, university, or health unit.

**Video recording assignments:** every week, all students are required to submit a video recording (with audio) of 1 – 5 minutes in length. This recording can be made with any device, so long as the video and audio are discernable. Most cell phones will do the job. The recordings will consist of music assigned by the instructor.

**Studio Class and Studio Recitals:** Studio Class is required for students enrolled in 1920, 2920, 2921, 3920, 3921, 3922, 4920, 4921, 4922 and 4923. Avoid all course conflicts with this time. For students enrolled in other course numbers, attendance and participation is strongly encouraged. Please indicate at the start of the year if you would like to be included on the schedule. You must commit to attending regularly to be included on the schedule. All participating students will perform with the trombone ensemble in the Fall studio concert. Participating students will perform solos in at least two Studio Class meetings in the Spring semester, **with piano** (if applicable). Students will perform a solo and/or chamber piece on the Studio Class recital in the Spring semester. Performances will be recorded, and after each performance students must watch the video and complete a Performance Reflection.

**Attendance:** Please arrive on time, warmed up and with all necessary materials for lessons and studio class. If you are sick or have an unavoidable conflict, try to swap times with another student before contacting the instructor to arrange a make-up lesson. It is your responsibility to inform the instructor in advance and to arrange another time. If the instructor cannot attend one of your lessons, he will give as much advance notice as possible and we will reschedule through one of these options:

1. At an alternate time during the same week
2. By “doubling up” on lessons the following week
3. With an additional lesson at the end of the semester

Each semester, you get one “get out of jail free card.” If you are feeling overworked or very under-prepared (it happens!), you have one chance to cancel your lesson.

#### **Performances:**

- Each student will be required to perform a jury each Spring semester, except those in xx24, xx25, xx29 course numbers. Date of jury is TBA.
- Students will perform with the trombone ensemble in the Fall semester
- Students will perform a solo with piano, at at-least two Studio Class meetings in the Spring semester. Performance dates will be assigned by the instructor.
- Students will perform a solo and/or chamber piece at the studio concert in the Spring semester.

#### **Grading:**

Consult the master course outline for an outline of the grading system for your specific course number.

Each lesson will be assigned a mark out of 100. The resulting average forms a *starting point* for the lesson assessment. Grading applied lessons is subjective, the instructor strives to strike a balance between performance level, week-to-week preparation and improvement

**Expected learning outcomes:** Students are expected to be able to execute the following tasks at their respective course level. Tasks are commutative to each subsequent level, i.e. 29xx level students must execute the task for 29xx and 19xx level courses, etc. Each pitch shall be a quarter note, tempo = 120 bpm

19xx level: all major scales in 2 octaves, when possible.

29xx level: all minor scales in 2 octaves, when possible.

39xx level: all church modes in 2 octaves, when possible.

49xx level: all major scales, minor scales, church modes, and chromatic scale in 3 octaves, when possible.

9xxx level: all major, minor, diminished, augmented, and all 7th chords arpeggiated in every inversion.

**Sample solo repertoire:**

1900 level: Morceau Symphonique - A. Guilmant

2900 level: Cavatine - C. Saint-Saens

3900 level: Vox Gabrieli - S. Sulek

4900 level: Concertino for Trombone - F. David

9XXX level: Sonatine - J. Casterede

**Repertoire:** Each student will be required to perform repertoire appropriate for their level, which will be assigned by the instructor.

**Practicing:** It is expected that all students will practice for a minimum of two hours daily, in addition to ensembles and other rehearsals – yes, this includes weekends. The majority of the improvement in your playing will take place outside of lessons, in the practice room! This is the most important part of your preparation for lessons and masterclass. Write your practice times into your weekly schedule as you would a classroom course. Structure your practice into at least two sessions: as early in the day as possible, establish a productive and regular routine of fundamentals, and some time later in the day schedule one or two additional sessions to work on repertoire and other demands.

**Pianists:** Building a productive, rewarding collaboration with a pianist is an important part of performing. To that end, you are strongly encouraged to find a pianist you can work with for the entire year. It is the student's responsibility to schedule rehearsals and to deliver music to the pianist.

**Materials:** Students are responsible for purchasing their own materials:

**Basic equipment**

- Instrument(s), mouthpiece, standard mutes
- Valve oil/slide lubricant/other cleaning and maintenance materials

**Repertoire** (as assigned): Repertoire will be selected in consultation with the instructor in order to fulfill jury and recital requirements.

**Method and etude books (you do not need to purchase all of these immediately, and many are free on IMSLP):**

- Arban - Method for trombone
- Bordogni/Rochut - Melodious Etudes Book 1, 2, 3
- Hering - 40 Progressive Etudes for Trombone
- Edwards - Introductory Studies for Tenor & Alto Clef for Trombone
- Bitsch - 15 Rhythmical Studies
- Others as assigned

**OWL site:** We will use OWL sparingly because it is being phased out of use by the university. The majority of correspondence will take place via email.

**Performance Studies Handbook and Master Course Outline:**

The performance studies handbook can be found online. This document contains important policies and other information about applied instruction, including the master course outline. Please read it carefully and use it as a starting point for questions or concerns about this course.

**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](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 Counseling office in a timely manner.

**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.

**Academic Offenses:** 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 offense. Scholastic offenses are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offense, as found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**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.**

**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\\_on\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_on_disabilities.pdf)

**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>

**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.