

**MUSIC 3952Y  
JAZZ, SALSA, POP ENSEMBLES  
COURSE OUTLINE**

**ARTISTIC DIRECTORS:** Dr. Denis Jiron ([djiron3@uwo.ca](mailto:djiron3@uwo.ca)); Pop Band, Salsa Band  
Dr. Kevin Watson ([kwatso54@uwo.ca](mailto:kwatso54@uwo.ca)); Jazz Combo

**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**COURSE PREREQUISITE**

Permission of the Artistic Director. Unless you have either the requisites 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.

**COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The Jazz Combo, Salsa Ensemble, and Pop Ensemble are performing musical groups open to all Western students. Membership in the ensembles is determined by auditions. Students rehearse and perform standard and contemporary repertoire, emphasizing interactive playing, improvising, and developing appropriate stylistic competency and techniques.

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of style and important historical aspects of the music performed.
2. Apply proper style and interpretation into performance practice.
3. Recognize and use appropriate rhythmic and melodic patterns and articulations for a given style.
4. Combine musical and communicative skills acquired to formulate unique interpretations of standard repertoire

**COURSE MATERIALS**

All performers must have access to a tuner and a metronome. The use of apps or software for creating play-along recordings (e.g., iRealb Pro, Band in a Box) and transcription aids (e.g., Amazing Slow Downer, Capo) is strongly recommended. Players are expected to bring their instrument, music, music stand, all necessary mutes/equipment and a pencil to every rehearsal.

**OWL COURSE SITE**

<https://owl.uwo.ca>

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**COURSE POLICIES**

In order to reach our peak performance, a number of activities must take place.

1. Recordings related to the repertoire will be placed on the course OWL page, and ensemble members are expected to study these recordings carefully and thoroughly.
2. Individual parts must be learned outside of the ensemble rehearsal times.
3. Each member of the ensemble will be responsible for music, all peripherals (mutes, reeds, amps, cords, etc.), and a pencil. In addition, students' preparedness and ability to execute their music along with their rehearsal etiquette will factor into the grade.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Due to the soloistic nature of much of the repertoire, and limited rehearsal time, the success of this ensemble greatly depends upon the preparation and regular attendance of every member. Students should regard rehearsals, coaching sessions, and concerts as professional environments, where 100% attendance is expected. The success of the ensemble depends upon the preparation and regular attendance of every member.

Absences are only excused for the following three reasons:

- Official school business that has been approved by the Director
- Death in the student's family
- Severe illness of the student or a member of the student's family

All other absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In the event of severe illness, other group members (and the Director if a coaching session is involved) must be notified by phone or email at least two hours before the rehearsal so that the rehearsal plan may be reorganized. An unexcused absence will result in a review of your membership in the group. Multiple unexcused absences will result in the loss of credit.

**EVALUATION**

Grades will be determined on the following bases:

- (a) Rehearsals and performances - 50%
- (b) Attendance - 20%
- (c) Assignments/Arrangements - 30%

**See Course Outline Addendum for specific assignment details for each group.**

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**REHEARSAL PREPARATION**

Preparation for rehearsals means each individual is responsibly preparing their part for correct execution. If the director warns an individual during rehearsal about preparedness, this means that the individual has not prepared the music in a timely manner. Repeated warnings will reduce the grade due to the lack of preparation.

Characteristics of an A

- No unexcused absences
- Always has music prepared for rehearsal
- Always punctual for rehearsals and performances
- Music performed in concert with no or very few errors
- Superior rehearsal attitude and decorum; is alert in rehearsal

Characteristics of a B

- One unexcused absence with all or mostly all other indicators of an 'A'
- Music prepared for rehearsal 80-90% of the time
- Sometimes late for rehearsal
- Music performed in concert with minor, noticeable errors
- Good rehearsal attitude and decorum; sometimes not paying attention

Characteristics of a C

- Two unexcused absences with all or mostly all other indicators of an 'A'
- One unexcused absence with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'B'
- Music prepared for rehearsal 70-80% of the time
- Significant number of tardies (2-5)
- Music is prepared by concert, but not before
- Music performed in concert with numerous minor errors and missed notes
- Contributes nothing more to rehearsal than playing notes
- Average student rehearsal decorum – occasional talking/off-task in rehearsal

Characteristics of a D

- Three unexcused absences with all or mostly all other indicators of an 'A'
- Two unexcused absences with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'B'
- One unexcused absence with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'C' or grade of B
- 3 or more excused absences
- Music not prepared by concert with many (mostly minor) errors;
- Significant number of tardies (5-10)
- Music mostly unprepared for rehearsal
- Music at concert performed with some major errors and many minor errors throughout
- Exhibits occasional negative attitude resulting in conference with Director; frequently off-task
- Student not present for equipment set-up

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Characteristics of an F

- Four or more unexcused absences
- ANY absence from performances without student or immediate family member ill/injured
- Three unexcused absences with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'B'
- Two unexcused absences with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'C'
- One unexcused absence with all or mostly all other indicators of a 'D'
- Usually unprepared for rehearsal
- Always tardy to rehearsal
- Music at concert performed with major errors and/or omissions throughout

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**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 Counselling 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

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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 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](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 disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation%20disabilities.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**

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely 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 remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.

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**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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519 661-3568.

**Evaluation Policy Exemption:**

This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”