

Music 9512B/9612B. Advanced Orchestration.

I. Course Information.

Schedule and Instructor Contact Information

Thursdays 1:30PM-4:30PM, TC340
Dr. Troy Ducharme, TC231
tducharm@uwo.ca; (519) 661-2111 x.87716

Course Description and Learning Objectives.

This course provides a forum for building on students' existing knowledge of instrumentation by reviewing and refining familiar concepts and introducing new ones. Information will be gleaned from detailed study and discussion of seminal orchestral works, primarily from the 20th and 21st centuries, along with representative analytical and explanatory writings. Skills in instrumentation as well as score and part preparation will be developed through the completion of arranging exercises that focus attention on each section of the orchestra in turn. Students will then complete a research/analysis project on an orchestration topic of their choosing and present their findings in a seminar. The approach taken is designed to inform composition practice and will be primarily of interest to students in composition, and to prepare those students for completing orchestral works as part of their composition studies. Students with interests in conducting, education, or performance are also likely to find value in the course.

II. Course Materials:

1. Scores and recordings, accessed online through electronic resources owned by Western's library system or through open access resources, or through the library's physical collection.
2. Access to the OWL course site for this course for the sake of communication, accessing materials, and submitting work.
3. Professional-quality music notation software or the professional tools required to make handwritten scores.
4. Easy access to a printer or scanner, or to a tablet with accurate and fine-point stylus for viewing and annotating scores, will be useful.
5. Suggested: Any decent, modern orchestration textbook as reference. The instructor prefers and recommends Samuel Adler's *The Study of Orchestration* but does not require it.

III. Evaluation.

Arrangement Exercises	40%
Seminar Presentation	35%
Attendance, Preparation and Participation	25%

Evaluation Details:

Arrangement Exercises. The student will complete **four (4)** exercises during the term, focusing on each section of the orchestra in turn. For each exercise, it is expected that the student will produce a professionally formatted score and a set of parts, submitted through OWL in “print-ready” PDF format. The due dates for these exercises will be: 26 January, 9 February, 2 March, and 16 March.

Seminar Presentations. In consultation with the instructor, each student will choose a topic for independent study (research and analysis). Students will present their findings in a seminar on **Thursday 6 April**, with a duration of 30-45 including 10-15 minutes of discussion. Further details will be provided in a separate document.

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation. A list of repertoire and readings for each topic will be provided. Students are expected to arrive at class having carefully reviewed these materials and prepared with their own questions and topics for discussion, as well as prepared to answer questions the instructor might pose about the materials. Any lapses in attendance will result in significant deductions from this portion of the grade unless discussed with the instructor in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Schedule of Topics

Detailed repertoire and reading lists will follow

1. Thurs 12 Jan Analysis of Orchestration as a Basis for Practice
2. Thurs 19 Jan Modern and Traditional Percussion Usage: Topic, Structure, Colour and Weight
3. Thurs 26 Jan Basic and Extended String Techniques and Texture
4. Thurs 2 Feb Formal Organization and Instrumental Sections
5. Thurs 9 Feb Principles of Layering, Counterpoint, and Balance
6. Thurs 16 Feb Basic and Extended Wind Techniques and Textures
7. Thurs 2 Mar Instrumentation and Motivic Development
8. Thurs 9 Mar Focal Pitches and Pivot Tones
9. Thurs 16 Mar Acoustic Principles and New Tonalties
10. Thurs 23 Mar Freedom and Constraint: Indeterminacy in Large Ensembles
11. Thurs 30 Mar *Individual Consultations, Seminar Preparation*
12. Thurs 6 April Seminar Presentations

IV. Notes.

1. The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by physical or mental illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The Graduate Program in Music further recognizes that physical or mental illness situations are deeply personal, and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. 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 his/her academic responsibilities."

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor.

Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

Adapted from: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

2. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf
3. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
4. Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

5. 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.