

Western Opera Class Outline 2023-2024

This class outline refers to Western University, Don Wright Faculty of Music, graduate ensemble course 9528 or Graduate Opera Workshop course number 9546. The early drop date for Opera Workshop is September 30, 2023.

Note: Texting and use of electronic devices are not allowed during rehearsal.

Mandatory Course Information

Course Prerequisites: None

Statement on Academic Offences

“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”

Statement on Health and Wellness

“Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>

Statement on Medical Accommodation (adapted from the Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness–Undergraduate Students:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf)

“The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student’s ability to fulfill academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s course grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet the 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.

Accessible Education Western

“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.”

Statement on 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.”

Religious Accommodation

When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

Further information can be found here:

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

1. Course Description

“Performing and technical aspects of the production of opera, including musical and dramatic interpretation, stage movement, techniques of stagecraft, lighting, scene construction, make-up, costumes.” From Western University Calendar. The Opera Class takes place, according to calendar. During production other times are also required in order to fully prepare for the performances. Rehearsals/coaching will also be called at other times as per the master schedule during the fall term leading up to the fall production There will also be music/dramatic coaching rehearsals on the second term repertoire scheduled during first term as well as during the week after first term classes end.. If the participants are unable to attend these extra times (during production) due to a class or exam scheduling conflict we will adjust the schedule to accommodate the student. The venues and times for these rehearsals are listed in the MASTER SCHEDULE which is part of this document.

Participants must inform Professor Baerg if they are unable to participate in all of the times listed above and in the Master Schedule **within 1 week** after the role assignments for the year have been posted. It is essential that participants in UWOPERA are available for all of their calls.

All members of UWOPERA will be required to participate as assigned following acceptance into the course. This may include roles in the various productions, chorus assignments, extra character assignments, assistance in stage management, and the technical areas of production; costumes, makeup, hair styles, stage crew, or as production assistants.

Master of Music and Doctoral candidates are expected to display leadership and mentor/support the other members of the workshop.

All members of UWOPERA should note that casting is always subject to change if the singer is deemed to be unprepared or otherwise unsuitable for the role. These changes will be at the discretion of the producer, head coach, stage director, and music director. The student's vocal teacher will be consulted.

All casting for all events will be posted as soon as possible after the final September Auditions

2. Class/Production Participant Responsibilities and Outcomes

Opera is a collaborative art form and knowledge of how it is produced, in all its technical areas and at all levels, is invaluable to the aspiring performer. It is the student's responsibility to take advantage of all the opportunities for increasing that knowledge as provided by the UWOPERA experience. This will enable the participant to create and express their character(s) in a manner that communicates with their audience. It will also enable the student to learn to organize their time in a manner that enables this growth and presentation. The participants will also develop knowledge of the repertoire most suitable for them at each stage of their ongoing development.

Members of UWOPERA are expected to know words and music when they arrive for coaching. Preparing the music to this initial level is the personal responsibility of the student. Coaches are NOT expected to teach notes and rhythms to the singers but will correct inaccuracies and rehearse music for style, diction and memory. Understudies/covers should plan on attending all musical and staging rehearsals. Coaching and some staging will be offered to the understudies, as possible in the schedule, once those performing the roles have been prepared. Understudies have been asked to take over roles in past years and all current understudies should bear that in mind.

Important Requirement: All members of the opera workshop are required to provide a short 150 word biography and a head shot picture before October 2, 2023. This picture and bio will be used for the program and promotional purposes. Please send the picture and bio to the designated Opera Teaching Assistant. To protect your privacy if you prefer not to have your picture or bio displayed please let Prof Baerg know by October 2.

N.B The following dates are mandatory for music memorization

La Cenerentola- as stated in class

Albert Herring – as stated in class

Opera Gala – as stated in class

Members of UWOPERA are required to be on time for all coaching and to be available at least 10 minutes before their call for all staging and at least 15 minutes before all orchestra rehearsals. Costume fittings and makeup times will be posted and punctuality is required for these calls as well. If a student is unable to attend any of the above they must let the coach or the stage manager of the production know at least 12 hours IN ADVANCE of their absence. Sending an email or leaving a telephone message just prior to an absence does not constitute sufficient notice. All operatic production preparation requires a great deal of organization and we cannot afford to lose valuable coaching/preparation time. Students will be excused for reasons of illness, personal emergency, and religious accommodation in addition to other reasons as appropriate to the policies of Western University. If the reason for absence cannot be confirmed the role assignment may be altered at the discretion of the producer/director/music director. Please note that coaching missed for any reason will be made up only if scheduling allows and the missed coaching in question will be offered to someone else.

All members of UWOPERA should be aware, and always remember, that our art form relies on the good will and volunteer effort of many to be a success. The collegial attitude and manner of participation should always reflect our gratefulness for their continuing assistance. This includes members of both our university and local communities. We are committed to providing a safe and caring learning environment for all students. If a member of UWOPERA is unable to take part in movement/choreography classes for reasons of a physical difficulty she/he should let the producer know as soon as possible. The director may request confirmation in accordance with Western University policy.

3. Grading Scheme^[1]_[SEP] The following will be considered when the final mark is awarded in this

course: Punctual attendance at all scheduled calls, **10 %**. The level of the knowledge of the music when it is brought to musical or dramatic coaching as well as participation in production based assignments, **25%**. State of the memory of assigned music by the assigned date **30%**. Participation in the assigned performances. (if a performance is missed due to illness or other acceptable reason there will be no deduction in the overall mark) **30%**. Collegiality, as it affects the other members of the performing troupe and their ability to perform their responsibilities, is an important part of any collaborative artistic venture. **5%**

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

4. Class Schedule Information

The attached Master Schedule (which is part of this document) will be subject to change in emergency situations. The weekly schedule will be sent, if possible, to all members of the company via email before 12:00 p.m Saturday for the following week. **It will also be posted on the OWL website. Finding out what is on the schedule is the students responsibility. You must check as often as necessary to keep track of, or send, messages.**

If a student is unable to come to a coaching due to illness the understudy will be considered first for the time slot and after that the time will be re-assigned at the discretion of the coaching staff and music director. Coaching missed without reasonable excuse or sufficient warning **will not be re-scheduled** and the music preparation will be the responsibility of the student.

All students who have been accepted into the course must immediately and carefully check the Master Schedule for potential class conflicts. If these conflicts will cause difficulty with the fulfillment of your responsibilities listed above you must make the producer aware of these conflicts. **It is the student's responsibility to make these conflicts known well in advance** so that arrangements can be made to assist the students with requests for absence from the conflicting event/class and ensure their presence at UWOPERA rehearsals and performances. All members of UWOPERA must be available as called during the two weeks prior to all dress rehearsals and continuing through the performance period. Please note that all students will not be called to all of the scheduled rehearsals, but must be available if required. The master schedule covers all activities during the UWOPERA season.

NETIQUETTE

1. Be accurate with factual information

Misleading others is obviously a major breach of online etiquette. This is true even if it's unintentional. Check facts before providing information or giving advice. Provide sources.

2. Extend your good nature online

The digital world is an increasingly important part of our lives. We should be our best selves there too. Do you think you're generally a good person? Are you pleasant, polite and well-mannered? Most people would answer "Yes" or "Most of the time". If someone says "Hello", you say "Hi" back. But what about online? Are you still that same considerate, nice person when you're in an online forum (including [social media](#))?

3. Use internet resources ethically

Online study resources should be used to support learning, not replace it.

4. Promote healthy discussions

To get the most out of online forums, a useful netiquette guideline is to promote healthy discussion. You can help your online community by posing questions, sharing experiences, providing positive feedback, asking follow-up questions, and referring to information sources. Being a positive contributor is better than being a critic, troll or other negative force.

5. Ignore inflammatory comments by trolls

It's generally best to ignore trolls.

6. Respect others as equals

Show a little respect and humility online. Think – that person who wrote the opinion you completely disagree with is a human being. They have feelings and experiences. They may believe passionately in what they're saying. And they may actually be right.

7. You're here to learn, not dictate

While we all like to think that our opinion matters, you'll gain more from internet forums by approaching them as a learner. A more polite and effective path is to adopt a listening mode. Read posts carefully, ask questions, and write something only if it offers value to the discussion.

8. Remember, your words are permanent

Be careful with what you post online. Once it's out there, you may not be able to get it back. Anything is possible with information that reaches the internet. It can go viral. It will be stored somewhere and may be findable through search. What you post can easily affect your

relationships and career, if not now then possibly in the future. So always be at least a little cautious in your online interactions.

9. Pause before you post

It's worth taking a moment to reflect before hitting the send button. When you're using a computer, you're normally clicking, and scrolling and typing all over the place. Most things are done quickly. Pause and reflect for a second. Are you truly comfortable with what you're sending?

10. Make your point in a nice way

Write in a way to get the kind of reaction you want. A little thoughtfulness, strategy and netiquette can go a long way in online discussions. Your first draft of an online post is unlikely to be your best. Are you disagreeing with someone in a flippant way? Have you misinterpreted what they really meant? Writing in a constructive way is a great habit to get into. Your online communications will turn out much better.

11. Use anonymity responsibly

While anonymity frees up online conversations, your ability to hide much of yourself shouldn't be misused. Good behaviour helps others, improves your online experience and ultimately will help you become a better communicator. Conversely, bad behaviour catches up with people eventually.

12. Write like you'd speak

Write naturally as if you were talking to someone right in front of you. While it's helpful to put thought into what you write, you generally don't want the product to appear laboured. So try to sum up your thoughts in a fluent, natural way.

13. Good writing is good manners

When posting text for others to see, try to write well. Good writing is, therefore, an essential part of netiquette.

14. Clarity is essential

Clear writing is essential to convey proper meaning online. Unfortunately, short texts have their limitations. You need to be accurate and very clear to avoid misunderstandings when writing online.

Production Personnel 2023-24

Coordinator of Western Opera: Professor T. Baerg tbaerg@uwo.ca

Office telephone 519-661-2111 x 85388 Office MB 307

Music Director and Head Coach– Simone Luti sluti@uwo.ca

Office telephone – 519-661-2111 x 83705

Opera Teaching Assistants

Anthony Rodrigues, arodri69@uwo.ca

Erica Simone, esimone5@uwo.ca

Thiago Soares, tsoares7@uwo.ca

Shantanu Thaivalappil, sthaival@uwo.ca

Autumn Zhao, jzhao285@uwo.ca

Shuwei Zhang, szhan855@uwo.ca

Director: La Ceneretola Professor Ted Baerg^[SEP]

Music Director : Simone Luti

Director:^[SEP]Albert Herring– Robert McQueen

Music Director Opera Gala – Simone Luti

Director Opera Gala: Anthony Rodrigues, Professor Baerg

Coaching Staff:^[SEP]Head Coach: Simone Luti

Repetiteurs:

Sunhwa her, sher3@uwo.ca

Catalina Teican, cteican@uwo.ca

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Mijin Kim, mkim753@uwo.ca

Theodore Chow, tchow72@uwo.ca

Xi Li, xli3268@uwo.ca

Tigran Saakyan, tsaakyan@uwo.ca

Costume Design and/or Co-ordination – Rebecca Wolsley

Set Design - TBA

Lighting Design: ~~SEP~~ Bryan Hart

Theatre/Performance Location Coordinator: Louis D’Alton, Bryan Hart