

Western University Canada
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
T. Ducharme. Fall 2023.

Music 9556. Studies in Contemporary Repertoire.

See OWL course site for meeting times and rooms.

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Office Hours by appointment

Studies in compositional techniques of the late 20th and early 21st century. Students will undertake an analytical and aesthetic survey of significant compositions, with a particular emphasis on works written within the last 25 years. Vocal and instrumental music, with and without electronics, will be covered, and the composers represented will be diverse in terms of age, gender, nationality, and aesthetic orientation.

Students will develop a working knowledge and vocabulary of compositional techniques, goals, and effects in the contemporary classical repertoire that they can bring into their creative and/or interpretative activities. They will demonstrate their achievement by writing a paper (analytical, critical, or explanatory) on a relevant work or topic, and will share their findings in a seminar presentation.

Course Materials:

Scores, recordings, and readings will be left on reserve in the library and/or found online through the OWL course site. In the first part of term, we will work our way through the following text to provide a basis for further investigations of repertoire:

Lochhead, Judy. 2015. *Reconceiving Structure in Contemporary Music: New Tools in Music Theory and Analysis* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315740744>

Evaluation.

Weekly Seminar Preparation and Participation:	30%
Final Project:	70%
Presentation:	20%
Paper:	50%

Weekly Seminar Preparation and Participation.

In addition to perfect, or very nearly perfect, attendance. Students are required to study all of the assigned materials in advance of class and arrive with the materials in hand and prepared to participate in and contribute to an in-depth discussion. Students will also be asked to share results of their own analyses, including representations of their findings in musical notation, charts, or diagrams, on a regular basis.

Details of the topics and schedule for each seminar will be circulated, together with the expectations for each week, through the OWL course site.

Final Project.

Students will choose a piece, or selection of pieces, composed within the last 25-30 years and write a paper (analytical, critical, or explanatory). This paper will be developed over the course of the term and in consultation with the instructor, and the results of these studies will be shared with the class in a presentation (to take place on **5 December**). More details will follow in a separate document. The paper itself will be due one week after the presentation, **12 December**.

Preliminary Schedule.

***Information on topics for each week will be posted to the OWL course site.*

*The readings and repertoire listed here are partial, and repertoire and readings for later weeks especially will be determined based on discussions in the first part of term.***

WEEK 1, 12 SEPTEMBER. INTRODUCTION.
Lochhead, Introduction.

WEEK 2, 19 SEPTEMBER. MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY NOTIONS OF STRUCTURE.
Lochhead, Chapter 1. "Modern" Music Analysis (Excerpt, 17-26); Chapter 5
Kaija Saariaho, *Lonh* [1996]

WEEK 3, 26 SEPTEMBER. STRUCTURES OF DIFFERENCE AND IDENTITY
Lochhead, Chapter 1 (Excerpt 2, 27-45); Chapter 6
Sofia Gubaidulina, String Quartet no.2 [1987]

WEEK 4, 3 OCTOBER. MUSICAL THINGS, MUSICAL MEMORY, AND NARRATIVE.
Lochhead, Chapter 2. What is Structure Anyway? [Excerpt, 46-57], Chapter 7.
Stacy Garrop, String Quartet no.2 "Demons and Angels" [2004-5]

WEEK 5, 10 OCTOBER. STRUCTURE AND STRUCTURING.
Lochhead, Chapter 2, Excerpt 2 (57-67); Chapter 8.
Anna Clyne, *Choke* [2004]

WEEK 6, 17 OCTOBER. ANALYSIS AS KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION
Lochhead Chapter 3. Music Analysis—Producing Knowledge

WEEK 7, 24 OCTOBER. STAGES OF ANALYSIS.
Lochhead Chapter 4. Reconceiving Structure: Investigating, Mapping, Speculating

****READING WEEK****

WEEK 8, 7 NOVEMBER. TOPIC TBA.

WEEK 9, 14 NOVEMBER. TOPIC TBA.

WEEK 10, 21 NOVEMBER. TOPIC TBA.

WEEK 11, 28 NOVEMBER. TOPIC TBA.

WEEK 12, 5 DECEMBER: MINI-SYMPOSIUM

Notes:

1. 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
2. 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>
3. 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.

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.”