

# Community of Pedagogical Practice: Syllabus, Fall 2023

## Course information

**Course number:** 9701

**Schedule and location:** Available on OWL only

**Prerequisites:** Open to all graduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Music, or by permission

## Instructor

**Name:** Aaron Hodgson **Office:** MB220 **Email:** ahodgson@uwo.ca **Office hours:** by appointment

## Course description

A community of practice is a group that forms around a shared activity, where members collaborate, share and improve together. The primary focus of this course is community of practice as it relates to applied music teaching, especially in one-on-one and small group settings. We will learn about community of practice by studying examples and academic literature, but we will also learn about it by attempting to form our own community of practice among the course participants. To that end, much of the course content will be shaped by participants in the course. Students teaching any instrument or musical genre, as well as composition, are welcome to enrol.

As a community of practice course, it is essential that enrolled students will be actively engaged in teaching throughout the term. Prior experience or proficiency is not necessary, but students will need to teach regularly (ideally weekly) and be willing to document, discuss and share their experiences. Interested/enrolled students without regular teaching obligations may contact the course instructor to help facilitate teaching arrangements. TA work at the university level is not a suitable form of teaching for this course.

## Learning outcomes

Students in the course will:

- Understand ways in which communities of practice form and function
- Lead and participate in a working community of practice
- Reflect on their own teaching and apply concepts from resources and discussion to their own teaching practice
- Offer respectful, constructive peer feedback
- Select appropriate readings and topics for discussion
- Lead class discussion on at least one occasion
- Construct a resource library relevant to their individual teaching activities

## Course resources

Readings will be available on OWL. A schedule and bibliography will be distributed for reference.

## Evaluation

Unless otherwise indicated, assignments to be submitted by 9:30am via the Drop Box on OWL. Twice during the semester, you may submit a written assignment up to 72 hours late without documentation or prior approval. Otherwise, late materials without documentation or prior approval will be penalized 10%/day.

Full descriptions of all assignments can be found on OWL.

1. Participation 15%  
*Due:* preliminary assessment Oct. 27, final assessment Dec. 8  
*Brief description:* participating in class discussion and activities is an essential component of this course.
2. Reflective journal 30%  
*Due:* weekly (3% x 12 weeks, lowest two grades discarded)  
*Brief description:* each week, a short reflective assignment will be posted on OWL. The content and format of these reflections will vary week-to-week.
3. Video teaching project 20%  
*Due:* Oct. 2 (video), Oct. 9 (peer feedback), Oct. 16 (final reflection)  
*Brief description:* students will record a 30-minute video lesson, offer peer feedback in small groups, then write a short reflection.
4. Resource project or research paper 20%  
*Due:* Oct. 23 (proposal), Nov. 20 (final submission)  
*Brief description (resource project):* create an annotated resource library of teaching materials.  
*Brief description (research paper):* write a 2000-3000 research paper.
5. Classroom leadership project 15%
  - *Due:* scheduled individually, must be completed by Dec. 4
  - *Brief description:* each student will select a theme, assign readings, deliver a short informational presentation and lead class discussion. Scheduling and content to be determined in consultation with course instructor.

i) Enrollment Restrictions: Enrollment in this course is open to all graduate students in the Don Wright Faculty of Music or any student who has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

ii) 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 [here](#)

iii) Statement on Health and Wellness: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

iv) Statement on Accommodation for Medical Illness (adapted from the [Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness – Undergraduate Students](#)): 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.

v) Accessible Education Western (AEW): 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.