Western University
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Department of Music Research and Composition

Music 2629 - Composition I
2017-2018
Winter Term: Dr. Paul Frehner

Monday 1:30-2:20 pm, Wednesday 1:30-3:20 pm* (see note below)
Talbot College Rm. MB 140

Course Description: An introductory course in composition including analysis of widely divergent works in the established and contemporary literature. Students will write compositions for instruments and possibly voice(s).

Prerequisite
Prerequisite(s): Music 1650A/B with a mark of 70% ("B"). Students normally will have completed Music 1629A/B.

Please note that prerequisites are no longer automatically checked prior to course registration. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that he or she has the specified prerequisites. Unless you either have the requisites for this course or special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Winter Term

Instructor: Dr. Paul Frehner, TC 319, 519-661-2111 ext. 85335, pfrehner@uwo.ca
Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Coursework
Coursework in the Winter Term will primarily consist of writing two compositions for chamber ensembles using techniques and compositional approaches discussed in class. Students will present work-in-progress on those compositions for critique and feedback during class time and during occasional private lessons*. There will be a number of short assignments and possibly some quizzes. There will be two listening tests. There is no final exam in the course.

Students are expected to participate in performances of their own compositions and those written by their classmates.

*Please see below for further detail on private lessons.
Learning Outcomes:
Students can expect to:
1. Gain knowledge of classical compositional techniques and trends prevalent in Europe at the turn of the 20th century to approximately 1945 through studying specific repertoire.
2. Write compositions based on those techniques
3. Learn about more recent repertoire and techniques through studying selected composers’ works
4. Develop collaborative skills through participating in in-class performances of their own work and that of their colleagues
5. Begin to develop an artistic ‘voice’

Evaluation

Composition Projects 28%
Composition I (due Feb. 5, 2018) 12%*
Composition II (due April 2, 2018) 16%*
Presentations of work-in-progress* see below
Composition Assignments and Quizzes (if any) 10%
Listening Tests (2x3.5%) 7%
Participation 5%
Total (Winter Term) 50%

Composition Projects
Basic parameters of the two projects are as follows
Composition I:
Duration: 2’30”-3’00”
Instrumentation: violin and piano
Composition II:
Duration: 3’30”-4’00”
Instrumentation: 2-6 instruments or voices

Other compositional parameters and guidelines for the two composition projects will be established in collaboration with the instructor.

The two composition projects will be evaluated according to their overall artistic merit and according to how the established guidelines and goals of each project are realized. Originality and musical parameters such as form, harmony, counterpoint, instrumentation and orchestration will be taken into account. Musical notation, calligraphy and score layout will also factor significantly into the grading.

*Presentations of work-in-progress in class and during private lessons
Students will be required to present for critique and discussion their work-in-progress on the two Composition Projects in class and during occasional private lessons. Overall preparedness for these private lessons will be considered when evaluating the two Composition Projects. These lessons will take place during the following weeks:
Week of January 29  
Week of March 19  
Week of March 26

During each of these weeks each student will receive one 30-minute private lesson. These lessons will replace regularly scheduled class meetings. There will be sign-up sheets for these lessons outside my office, TC 339.

Assignments and Quizzes
Assignments will typically take the form of either writing exercises or miniatures (very short yet complete compositions) focusing on specific compositional techniques. Details for any quizzes that may take place will be announced at least one week ahead of time during class.

Listening Tests
   Listening Test 1: February 14  
   Listening Test 2: March 14

Participation
   Attendance, active participation in class discussions and participating in the performance/readings of student compositions will be taken into account for this portion of the course grade.

Dates for Readings of Student Compositions
   Feb. 7, in vKH: Composition Project I, with violinist Veronique Mathieu and pianist Stephanie Chua  
   April 11 (and perhaps April 9, if necessary), in Studio 242: Composition Project 2  
   Please note that students are expected to find performers for the reading/performance of Composition Project 2

Notation
Please note: unless otherwise indicated all composition work in this course will be notated by hand either in pencil or in ink. Correct and neat notation is essential. Difficult to read, untidy and incorrectly notated music will be graded accordingly.

Recommended Texts
Students are expected to own a notation manual and an orchestration textbook for personal reference. Appropriate texts are suggested below.

Notation

**Orchestration**


**Other Required Course Materials**

Music manuscript paper in specific (professional) sizes and formats as assigned. (commercially acquired and/or customized as appropriate)

Pencils: H, B or softer grade – good quality eraser

or

Felt tipped pens in graded sizes, such as Staedler’s Pigment Liner

Ruler

**Submission of composition work**

The two Composition Projects must be bound with a spiral or cerlox binding and must include a cover page and performance notes if applicable. Assignments can be handed in without binding. Please hand in photocopies, not originals.

**Items on Reserve**

Some listening list recordings and scores will be placed on reserve at the music library for your consultation. In other cases, recordings might only be available online.

**Electronic Devices**

The use of mobile phones or other electronic communications device in class is prohibited. Please turn off your communications devices before entering the classroom. Laptops and other like devices are not required in this class and their use is prohibited as well.

**Accommodation for Medical Illness**

As of May 2008, the University has a new policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness, [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf), which states that “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 appropriate Dean’s office...”

This policy can be found at [www.studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm](http://www.studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm).

Accommodation for documented medical absences for work worth less than 10% of the final mark will be considered on a case-by-case basis. This work must be completed before the last day of classes in the Fall 2014 term.

**Statement on Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory for this course. If a student's attendance is considered inadequate by the instructor, the decision to bar the student from taking a written or oral examination or submitting an equivalent final project for grade assessment rests with the Dean, on the recommendation of the Department.

**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 [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf).

**Statement on Mental Health**

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Fall Term**

Dr. Matthew Tozer provided a course description for the Fall term on the first day of classes in September 2017.

Each term is worth 50% of the final mark.