

University of Western Ontario  
Don Wright Faculty of Music  
Music 9558

**Composition in the PhD (Composition) Program**  
September 2015

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. David Myska Office: TC-222 Tel: (519) 661-2111 extension 85366  
Email: [dmyska@uwo.ca](mailto:dmyska@uwo.ca) Office hours: by appointment.

**MEETINGS:** Meetings are expected weekly, time TBA, Room: TC-222

**DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

Works in the larger forms for vocal and/or instrumental ensembles. Analysis with an emphasis on literature from the twentieth-century to present. The 9558 course consists of one-on-one consultations focusing on the participants' demonstrated in-progress and completed compositions, any related in-progress and completed assignments and exercises, and discussions and analyses of selected contemporary music repertory. **Prerequisite:** N/A

Learning Outcomes: As they produce and complete their new musical compositions, students will develop their creative abilities to achieve sophisticated understanding, skill, and qualifications related to music composition, theory, analysis, and history; and will demonstrate adept and diverse musical competence in reading, aural, and keyboard skills and appropriate idiomatic expression through organization/form and notation/presentation.

Students are expected to participate in the Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative on 22 March 2016, 8 pm VKH. This is an interdepartmental collaborative event between MPS and MRS that has been in place for over 15 years. Chamber groups are not finalized until near the end of September. Composer assignments are prioritized by course number (high to low) and grades and other meritorious factors. Decisions are made by a committee of MPS and MRC faculty organizers. *Guidelines* will be distributed separately.

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*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.*

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*Audio/video recording of course lectures or individual meetings is not permitted.*

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*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: The Scholastic Offence Policy is available:  
[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsgrad.pdf)*

*Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Composers sometimes deliberately quote other composers in an obvious manner. Pastiche and parody are acknowledged as legitimate compositional techniques, although copyright restrictions take precedent over artistry.*

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*Accommodation for Medical Illness: Students are directed to the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness found under "Rights and Responsibilities" at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)*

*The University has a policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness 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..." (In Music, this means the Associate Dean, Graduate Studies in Music).*

*For Music 9558, project deadlines are firm when given. Dates are necessarily tentative at the outset of the course. For medical illness of work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, medical documentation for such accommodation will be required if a project deadline is missed, or if weekly composition work is unavoidably late by more than 1 day or if work is habitually late. When documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student in*

**EVALUATION:**

The final grade is comprised of 90% for original compositions, and 10% for participation/attendance. The grade portion for composition will be based on the quality of the student's composition(s) taking into account musicality, originality, technical sophistication, creative thinking, and overall effort. Students must earn a minimum of 63/90 for the composition component of the final grade to pass the course. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of one-on-one consultations to pass the course. There are no examinations.

**TEXTBOOK:**

There is no textbook for this course. Listening and musical scores for study are available online and/or from the music library. Students will be asked as needed to bring score and audio materials for discussion.

**Relevant Reference Books:**

Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*. (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.) New York: Norton, 2002. ISBN: 039397572X

Dallin, Leon. *Techniques of twentieth century composition; a guide to the materials of modern music*. Dubuque, Iowa : W. C. Brown Co., [1974] Call No.: MT40.D22 1974 (unfortunately out-of-print; one copy is on reserve)

Morgan, Robert P., editor. *Twentieth-Century Music: a history of musical style in modern Europe and America*, New York : Norton, 1991 ISBN 0-393-95272-X ML197.M675 1991

Karkoschka, Erhard, *Notation In New Music: A critical Guide to Interpretation and Realisation*, (Translated by Ruth Koenig) New York: Praeger, 1972 MT35 .K185 S33 1972