Monday 10:30-11:30 am, Wednesday 10:30-12:30 pm
Room: Talbot College 101

Course Description: Introduction to musical elements and manipulation (pitch, rhythm, intensity, timbre, texture, and form), and appropriate repertoire.

Instructor: Dr. Paul Frehner, TC 339, 519-661-2111 ext. 85335, pfrehner@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Mondays 11:30-12:30; Wednesdays 12:30-1:30; or by appointment

Please note: due to occasional departmental meetings I will sometimes be unavailable for Wednesday office hours.

Prerequisite

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.

Coursework

This course is an introduction to music composition. Analysis and discussion of widely divergent works from the common practice period up to the early 21st century will make up a significant portion of in-class activity.

Written work will primarily consist of five short compositional assignments and two longer, complete composition projects.

There will be 2 listening tests that will require identification of audio excerpts of specific works from the repertoire as well as answering analytical questions related to those works. Listening lists will be provided in advance of these tests. These tests may also contain other questions on analytical or theoretical topics.

Students are expected to participate in playing music during class from time to time. This may involve performing their own compositions, the compositions of their colleagues or any other assigned repertoire as well as taking part in their own collaborative structured improvisations/experimental works.

There is no final exam in the course. Rather, there is a final project.
Course materials may be handed out in class, uploaded to the course OWL site or made available for consultation in the library.

**Learning Outcomes:**
Students can expect to:
1. Develop competency in realizing their musical ideas utilizing the conventions of musical notation
2. Learn various techniques for developing music over time.
3. Develop general skills and knowledge related to the craft of music composition
4. Study a variety of repertoire relevant to their assigned work
5. Learn about more recent repertoire and techniques through studying selected composers’ works
6. Develop collaborative skills through participating in in-class performances of their own work as well as improvised or experimental works

**Required Course Materials**
- The Real Book Staff Paper – 9 Stave 8.5x11”
  Or
- Carta Manuscript Paper No. 6 – 10 Stave 9x12”
  *Copies of these are available at the Campus Book Store*

A binder for collating handouts
Pencils: 2B, or softer grade, and a good quality eraser
or
Pens: Felt tipped pens in graded sizes, such as Staedler’s Pigment Liner
Ruler

**Recommended Reference Texts**
Students are encouraged to purchase an orchestration textbook and a music notation manual for personal reference. Appropriate texts are suggested below. Some of these will be on the course reserve list in the Music Library.

**Notation**

*A few copies may be available at the Campus Bookstore*

**Orchestration**


Coursework Timetable

Assignment 1 – Modal Melody – due September 18
Assignment 2 – Two Part Writing – due September 25
Assignment 3 – Preludes, Patterns and Chords – due October 2
Listening Test I – October 9
Composition Project I* – due October 23
Assignment 4 – Contemporary Materials I – due October 30
Assignment 5 – Contemporary Materials II – due November 13
Listening Test II – November 20
Performances of Composition Project I – November 25-27
(for more detail see ‘In-class Performance Dates’ below)
Small Group Improvisation/Experimental Music Performances – December 2 and 4
(for more detail see ‘In-class Performance Dates’ below)
Composition Project II (Final)* – due December 11 (Wednesday after classes end)

Quizzes: may be given from time to time with typically 1 week of notice.

*During certain weeks some class time may be cancelled and replaced with 30-minute semi-private lessons during which students will present work-in-progress on their composition project(s). These semi-private lessons will take place in my office, TC 339.

In-class Performance Dates

From time to time during the semester students will play music in class. Guidelines will typically be announced verbally or in writing at least one week ahead so that students can prepare and bring their instruments to class.

In addition, Studio 242 has been reserved for us during class time near the end of the semester for performances of student work. Dates and performance details are as follows:

November 25: Performances of Composition Project 1**
November 27: Performances of Composition Project 1**
December 2: Performances of Group Improvisations/Experimental works***
December 4: Performances of Group Improvisations/ Experimental works***

**Students are responsible for finding players for their compositions and for leading at least one rehearsal prior to the performance in Studio 242.
***Students will collaborate in assigned groups and will prepare and present their own structured improvisation/experimental works.
Evaluation

2 Composition projects 51%
Composition project I 19%
Composition project II (Final) 32%
Presentation of work-in-progress during semiprivate lessons* 5%
5 Composition assignments and quizzes (if any) 25%
2 Listening Tests 14%
In-class performances and group improv./experimental work 6%
Attendance and participation 4%

The instructor will establish in class the guidelines and compositional parameters for all assignments and composition projects.

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 effective control of musical parameters such as form, harmony, melody, counterpoint and instrumentation will be taken into account. Musical notation, calligraphy and score layout will also factor significantly into the grading.

*Presentations of work-in-progress during semi-private lessons
Students will be required to present for critique and discussion their work-in-progress on their Composition Project(s) during occasional semi-private lessons. Overall preparedness for these lessons will be factored in when evaluating the two Composition Projects. Signup sheets for lesson times will be posted on my office door at least one week ahead of time. Students can sign up on a first come, first serve basis. Due to class numbers some students will, by necessity, have to have their lesson outside of regular class time.

Notation
NB, unless otherwise indicated all written composition work in this course is to be notated by hand. Correct and neat notation is essential. Difficult to read, untidy and incorrectly notated music will be graded accordingly. However, if the instructor deems that the notation on an assignment or project is just too illegible or problematic, he reserves the right to either give the assignment a zero or to request that it be recopied neatly. Work notated with a computer notation program will not be graded and will receive a zero unless the instructions were specifically to use such a notation program.

Submission of Composition Work
The five assignments and Composition Project 1 are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated above. Composition Project II (Final) is due before 3:30 pm on December 11. It is to be handed in to the Undergraduate Program Assistant in room TC-210.

The two composition projects must be photocopied doubled-sided and bound with a spiral or cerlox binding. They must also include a cover page and any special performance notes, if applicable. The five assignments can be handed in without such binding.
**Penalty for Late Submission of Coursework**
Assignments and projects submitted after the due date will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero unless there are extenuating circumstances and appropriate documentation is provided as per the university’s Policy on Accommodation for Illness *(please see the statement below on Accommodation for Medical Illness)*.

**Items on Reserve**
Most listening list recordings and scores will be placed on reserve at the Music Library for your consultation. In some cases, materials might only be available online.

**Electronic Devices**
Use of mobile phones and laptops in class is strictly prohibited. Please turn off your electronic communications devices before entering the classroom. Use of mobile phones in class will negatively affect student participation grades.

**Statement on Attendance**
Regular attendance and participation are mandatory for this course. As there is no textbook and as all compositional work is based on material covered during lectures the only way to successfully meet course expectations is to attend class and participate in an engaged manner. Students, whose attendance and participation (including handing in completed assignments) are considered inadequate by the instructor, may be barred from submitting the final project for grade assessment at the recommendation of the instructor and at the discretion of the Dean, on the recommendation of the Department.

**Accommodation for Medical Illness**
Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. In order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing more than 30% of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation in the form of a completed and appropriately signed Student Medical Certificate (SMC) indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities, or the equivalent documentation for non-medical or compassionate grounds.

Students seeking academic consideration **must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC**, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence. Documentation, if required, shall be submitted to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210).

Note that the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal may not be used for requesting academic relief for work worth more than 30%, or for Final Exams scheduled during the official examination period. Students are directed to read the full Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website:
A pdf copy of a Senate approved Student Medical Certificate (SMC) may be downloaded here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

In cases where students miss work that is worth 30% or less of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online absence report is submitted using the new Self-Reporting Absence Portal, or if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean’s office and the Associate Dean deems that accommodation is warranted, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) may be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not submitted voluntarily then the missed assignment(s), tests or quiz(zes) will receive a grade of zero.

Accommodation because of Disability
If you require academic accommodations because of a disability, please let the instructor know during the first week of classes, and, if you have not done so already, register as soon as possible with Accessible Education (formerly known as Services for Students with Disabilities). You can learn more about the Student Success Centre’s services for accessible education at http://success.uwo.ca/academics/sas/index.html.

Statement on Mental Health
“Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.”

For more information, The university’s policy on attendance may be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf

Western has a Wellness Education Centre located in the UCC, room 76, to which students in distress may be directed. http://wec.uwo.ca/

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: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Religious Accommodation
Students may be excused to observe a religious holy day of his/her faith without penalty provided they notify the instructor in advance. Students will be held responsible for material covered in their absence and each student shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work.