

1102a: Listening to Music

M, W, Fr. 12:30 - 1:20 pm; Talbot College, room 141

Instructor: Dr. Kate Helsen (kate.helsen@uwo.ca)

GTAs: Caroline Blumer (cdelazar@uwo.ca) and Jeffrey Komar (jkomar2@uwo.ca)

Description:

There is a symbiotic relationship between *enjoying* music and *understanding* music, in which each aspect feeds and promotes the other. This course is focused on the elements of music that are often considered 'universal': melody, rhythm, harmony, texture, timbre, dynamics, and form. These are the keys to enhance the enjoyment – and the understanding – of every era and genre of music. Course materials have been developed for students who have little previous training in music, but students with a more extensive musical background may also find that their enjoyment of music, through focused listening, deepened. Most of the musical material considered here comes from the Western musical tradition, but some world music, pop music, and video game music have been integrated into the course content as well. In addition to focusing on specific pieces of music and cultivating an understanding of the basic musical elements through them, students will also be required to watch or attend ten (10) concerts over the semester and submit impressions of their experiences each week. The rest of the evaluation will be based on online chapter tests, and a final exam.

Objectives:

- Develop focused listening skills based on the elements of music
- Foster a familiarity with musical works across time periods and genres
- Expand an understanding of musical styles and contexts
- Build critical thinking capacity, as a concert-goer and supporter of the arts
- Improve and hone a musical vocabulary for writing about music

Required Texts:

- Bonds, Mark Evan. *Listen to This*. 4th ed. (Pearson, 2018) (E-Text)
 - This text is found on an e-learning platform run by Pearson, called Revel which allows the user access to over 80 tracks of music specifically referenced and analysed in the text. Revel is also the place to complete the online chapter quizzes.
 - **Please go to THIS LINK to buy:** <https://console.pearson.com/enrollment/mywgxb>

Evaluation:

- Online Chapter Assignments through **Revel**: 40%
 - Your cumulative quiz average will be calculated out of 40 final marks in the course.
 - Due dates are listed on Revel. Generally, they are due online at least 24 hours after they have been discussed in class. Any quiz on Friday's material (which won't occur often) is due the following Monday, skipping the weekend.
- **Brief written impressions of concerts**: (3% x 10) = 30%
 - Find link on OWL to a Google Forms page - fill out using your UWO email address!
 - Briefly answer 3 questions about each performance.
 - Forms page will close an hour after the performance.
- **Final exam**: 30% (Written during class time - see exam schedule.)

Mandated Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** [None].

ii) **Grading scale:** A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence:** Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU

then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

iv) **Academic Consideration for Missing Work:** In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments may be rescheduled or discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

v) **Academic Offences:** Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. 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

vi) **Mental Health & Wellness:** Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

viii) **Religious Accommodation:** Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online at the discretion of the course instructor.