

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

Course Calendar Description

Works in smaller forms for voices and instruments. The course will include analysis of pertinent repertoire

Prerequisite(s):

The former Music 1650A/B with a minimum mark of 70%. Enrolment in the Bachelor of Music with Honors in Composition program or the Bachelor of Music with Honors in Music Theory program or permission of the department.

Extra Information: 3 hours, 1.0 course

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 have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this 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.

Meetings

- Monday 1:30-2:20pm (1x 50 min) Music Building MB140*
- Wednesday 1:30-3:20pm (2x 50 min. with 10 min. break) Music Building MB140*

Instructor Dr. Jason Stanford jstanfo@uwo.ca Office: TC 334

Office Hours: by individual appointment

*may be truncated, in part or whole, and/or replaced by individual (or small group) lessons/consultations held in TC334 – office of the instructor

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able to discuss, in detail, common-practice and contemporary 20th/21st-century stylistic idioms salient to instrumental/vocal writing. Through hands-on practical assignments and projects students will be given the opportunity to gain proficiency and technical fluency in the application of a significant number of compositional techniques through the creation of original compositions for small groups of instruments and/or voices. Students are afforded the experience to gain a deeper understanding of significant contemporary music compositions through listening, critique, discussion, and analysis.

Through an apprenticeship-approach to the study of music composition which takes the form of private individual lessons (in addition to lecture/group meetings), student will be guided in the practice of developing their own unique and individual creative voices, further improving and refining their own aesthetic outlook along with the development of practical compositional technique.

Course Activities

The activities of the course will include active reduced listening, discussion, and analysis of significant repertoire and recordings, *ad hoc* in-class presentations of completed work and/or work-in-progress, 12 small Compositional Etudes (6 per term), and two major Term Compositions (one at the end of the Fall term and one at the end of the Winter term).

For a detailed, week-by-week schedule of class activities consult the document entitled **Music 2629-2021-22 Class Schedule** circulated separately from the Syllabus. For a listing of important due dates, see the **Key Dates** section at the end of this syllabus.

The format of this class will consist of regular weekly class meetings; however, class meetings may be reduced and/or replaced by weekly individual (or small group) meetings/instruction in addition to, or in lieu of portions of regularly scheduled meeting times. Any changes to scheduled meeting times will be communicated to students in advance.

Compositions

In this course, significant time and energy will be spent on small creative projects, referred to hereafter as **Compositional Etudes**, which will introduce students to a variety of compositional techniques and styles found in the canon of common-practice and contemporary classical art music. Once a level of competency in the creative usage of available resources is attained, emphasis will shift to the composing of a major creative work, one per term, referred to hereafter as **Term Compositions**. Assignments may be given verbally, or in writing during lectures.

For each creative compositional project, students will submit a score that includes fully notated music for instrumentalists/vocalists and, as required will include: graphics/tablatore, technical details, and special instructions, including but not limited to, any unorthodox fingerings or extended instrumental techniques utilized within a given work.

Submission of Work

Whether hand-written, or software notated, all completed work and work-in-progress must be organized and legible or the assignment risks being refused for assessment, and will earn a grade of zero.

Final versions of composition projects **must** be bound (spiral is preferred, or Cerlox) and must include front and back covers, and performance notes (if applicable). Legible photocopies of Compositional Etudes may be submitted without binding (never submit originals).

Participation

Students are expected to participate in class discussions and also in the reading/performance of their own compositions and the compositions of fellow classmates whenever possible or necessary. Students are expected to present their ongoing work-in-progress for discussion

and helpful constructive criticism whether in class, in a small group, or in an individual consultation/lesson with the instructor.

Attendance is mandatory and will ensure adequate progress in this course. Attendance is taken at every meeting, and students are required to sign an attendance form at the beginning of every class meeting.

The key to success in this course is **regular work**, if you invest the time, you will understand key concepts and be able to effectively apply these concepts in your own work. **Set aside regular time(s) during the week to only compose - in a place where you can concentrate on creative work for extended periods of time undistracted.**

Required Course Materials and Resources

Textbooks

There is no textbook for this course, rather, readings will be available online in the Resources portion of the OWL website for Music 2629 2021-22.

Notation

In lectures or lessons, students will, at times, be required to take notes in standard notation, which requires at least:

- a sharp pencil (suggested: mechanical, HB, 0.5 and/or 0.7mm)
- a pad of letter-size (8.5" x 11") manuscript paper (smaller/larger sizes may suffice)
- a ruler (metal – does not break, unlike plastic)
- a large non-smudging eraser (you will use this more than a pencil!)

Students may choose to submit work to the instructor in hand-written or computer-notated form. Regardless of the chosen method of engraving, the final result **must** be clear, legible, and properly formatted. Notation must be both correct and neat in order to clearly communicate your sonic/musical intentions to performers. Messy, untidy, incorrectly notated, or *byzantine* notation will have a direct and negative result on the final grade of the work (and any ancillary performance).

If notating by hand, final scores (and parts) should be written in ink. Technical pens of various thicknesses – 0.05mm to 1.0mm should be utilized - such as those made by Micron or Staedler.

Binder and Notebook

There will be a considerable number of hand-outs (including scores) for this class, and to keep these hand-outs together, please utilize a 3-ring binder.

In addition to a binder, you will find that a notebook will come in handy to jot down important points from lectures/lessons, as well as to keep a record of your own technical and creative experiments. Notebooks work best when entries are **clearly dated**.

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

A class notebook is both an important **organizational** and **learning** tool, since it will contain:

- Salient points about techniques, methods, musical works, and other concepts presented and discussed during lectures/lessons
- Your own proposals and/or objectives – the purpose of your work session, what concepts you wish to explore or what goals you wish to attain during each session
- observations, thoughts, considerations, hypotheses, conclusions
- results of experimentation: what ideas worked, what ideas did not work as expected, what outcomes were achieved
- new proposals/objectives/hypotheses to test based upon new evidence
- what to try or explore during the next session
- An activity journal of your technical and creative work will aid students in breaking through compositional roadblocks, you will be able to look back and see your charted progress over the course of each semester and the entire year

Listening List

The listening list for this course will expand and evolve over time, along with the number of musical scores on OWL. Recordings will be made available to students as uncompressed .WAV audio files whenever possible and accessible online.

Optional Course Materials

Software

Although not required, it is suggested that students at some point consider the purchase of a professional music notation program such as *MakeMusic Finale*, *Avid Sibelius*, *Steinberg Dorico*, *Presonus Notion*, or another *professional-level* music notation program. The listed software titles are available to students at discounted academic pricing online or at your local music store. Compositions in Music 2629 are for small chamber ensembles: solos, duos, trios, and perhaps quartets, and a freeware/donationware (yet powerful) notation program such as *MuseScore* will suffice for the etudes and term compositions written this year.

Although methods of music notation will be discussed in this class, Music 2629 is not a course in the use of notation software. If a student chooses to engrave work using a notation program, the onus is on the individual student to master the use of the software to a point where polished, professional results are produced.

All software-engraved music, especially work-in-progress must be printed out in advance of individual, group, or class consultation/lessons. **Scores will not be viewed from a laptop.**

Printer

A reliable printer is ideal if students plan to use a notation program to engrave their work.

Music Library Printer/Photocopy Card

You will never know when you may need to print/photocopy something for a class or a lesson or a rehearsal, it is best to be prepared by having a printer/photocopy card you can use in the Music Library.

Recommended Books

Notation

Stone, Kurt, *Music Notation in the Twentieth Century*

Orchestration

Adler, Samuel, *The Study of Orchestration* (3rd Edition)

Requirements, Dates, and Evaluation
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Compositions will be graded 50/50 on technical and creative merits. Grading of compositions will take into account the creativity and originality of the project in regards to the treatment of form, structure, counterpoint, timbre, texture, dramaturgy and musical plot, *et cetera*, as well as the level of sophistication and refinement in the creative use of contemporary techniques discussed in class.

In regards to Term Compositions, work-in-progress – which will ***invariably vary*** in quality and quantity from week to week - is just as important as the polished final product. Composition is not just a terminal destination, it is a journey, a process. Regular feedback on work-in-progress keeps students on track over the duration of time-extended projects.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term Compositions<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term I Composition (20%)• Term II Composition (30%) • Compositional Etudes (12 x 3.5% each) • Attendance, Preparation, Participation	<p>50%</p> <p>42%</p> <p>8%</p> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <p>100%</p>
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Consultation with the Instructor during the process of composition is a requirement. The Instructor must see sufficient work-in-progress especially as deadlines of each term approach. Office Hours, in addition to regularly scheduled weekly individual lessons, are available upon request, subject to the availability of the Instructor.

Late Submission Policy

Late written work or in-class presentations will only be accepted under the circumstances listed below. See the **Notes** for further clarification of Academic Policies.

Compositions will only be accepted after the due dates under extenuating circumstances, including documented medical or compassionate grounds, or if accommodation has been requested and received *prior to the due date*.

Notes

1.) Course Prerequisites

As mentioned previously the prerequisite for Music 2629 is the former Music 1650A/B with a minimum mark of 70%. Enrolment in the Bachelor of Music with Honors in Composition program or the Bachelor of Music with Honors in Music Theory program or permission of the department. *If you do not meet the prerequisites for this course or obtain special permission from your Dean to enroll then you will be removed from this 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 meet the prerequisites.*

2.) Grading scale

A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

3.) 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

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

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.

4.) Academic Consideration for Missing Work

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) or quiz(zes) will receive a grade of zero.

5.) At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.

6.) Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western at the following website https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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

8.) 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>.

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

- 9.) Hand in assignments to the instructor at the beginning of class on the day for which the assignment is due. Never leave completed assignments in faculty mailboxes in the main office and do not slide them under the instructor's door. Acceptance of late assignments will be at the discretion of the instructor and only if extenuating circumstances prevail; otherwise late assignments will not be graded
- 10.) **Plagiarism:** Complete assignments independently. Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism. Plagiarism is 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, at the following website:

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

- 11.) The in-class use of electronic devices other than for class work or for accessing OWL materials is expressly prohibited. Please turn off all mobile devices during lectures. Laptops or tablets are only permitted if they are being used as study aids, and if prior accommodation for their use has been requested and granted. Students guilty of disrupting class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to re-enter the class with their device until they can satisfactorily prove to the instructor that their device will no longer be a disruption.

12.) Class Schedule of Curricular Materials

The Class Schedule for *Music 2629 2021-22* is provided as a general guide through the materials and topics to be covered within this course. The presentation of curricular materials in this class may, on occasion, deviate from the timetable of the provided class schedule as required, depending upon the progress of the class through the course materials. At times, we may dwell longer on certain topics or course materials than allotted in the class schedule.

Notes That Specifically Address Covid-19-related issues should they arise during 2021-22

- 13.) **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, or other online platform with links provided to students via 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.

14.) Recording of Online/In-Class Activities: All of the remote learning sessions, if any, for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

15.) Online Etiquette: Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please honour the following rules of etiquette:

- Use your computer and/or laptop if possible (as opposed to a cell phone or tablet)
- “Arrive” to class on time
- Ensure that you are in a private location to protect the confidentiality of discussions in the event that a class discussion deals with sensitive or personal material
- To minimize background noise, kindly mute your microphone for the entire class until you are invited to speak, unless directed otherwise
- Unless invited by your instructor, do not share your screen in the meeting
- In order to give us optimum bandwidth and web quality, please turn off your video camera for the entire class unless you are invited to speak
- Be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

16.) The course instructor will act as moderator for the class and will deal with any questions from participants. To participate please consider the following:

- If you wish to speak, select the blue “raise hand” function and wait for the instructor to acknowledge you before beginning your comment or question.
- Kindly remember to unmute your microphone and turn on your video camera before speaking.
- Self-identify when speaking.
- Kindly remember to select the “raise hand” function again to lower your hand, mute your mic and turn off your video camera after speaking (unless directed otherwise).

General considerations of “netiquette”:

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

17.) Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

18.) E-Proctoring: Tests and examinations in this course will be conducted using Zoom. You will be required to keep your camera on for the entire session, hold up your student card for identification purposes, and share your screen with the invigilator if asked to do so at any time during the exam. The exam session will not be recorded.* More information about the use of Zoom for exam invigilation is available in the Online Proctoring

Guidelines at the following link:

<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/onlineproctorguidelines.pdf>

Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the system requirements for Zoom. Information about the system requirements are available at the following link: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

* Please note that Zoom servers are located outside Canada. If you would prefer to use only your first name or a nickname to login to Zoom, please provide this information to the instructor in advance of the test or examination.

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

Key Dates

Term 1: Fall (September – December)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Wednesday September 15, 2021	1 - Compositional Etude No.1 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday September 22, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.1 - Due</u> 2 - Compositional Etude No.2 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday September 29, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.2 - Due</u> 3 - Compositional Etude No.3 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week 4 - Term 1 Composition – Assigned + - Due in 6 weeks (+ Fall Reading Week*)

**Students are not required to work on their compositions over Reading Week*

Wednesday October 6, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.3 - Due</u> 5 - Compositional Etude No.4 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday October 13, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.4 - Due</u> 6 - Compositional Etude No.5 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday October 20, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.5 - Due</u> 7 - Compositional Etude No.6 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday October 27, 2021	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.6 - Due</u>
 Monday November 1 - Friday November 5, 2021	 Fall Reading Week – No Classes – University is Open

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

Term 2: Winter (January – April)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Wednesday January 5, 2022	8 - Compositional Etude No.7 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday January 12, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.7 - Due</u> 9 - Compositional Etude No.8 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday January 19, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.8 - Due</u> 10 - Compositional Etude No.9 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week 11 - Term 2 Composition – Assigned + - Due in 6 weeks (+ Winter Reading Week*)
<i>*Students <u>are not</u> required to work on their compositions over Reading Week</i>	
Wednesday January 26, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.9 - Due</u> 12 - Compositional Etude No.10 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday February 2, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.10 - Due</u> 13 - Compositional Etude No.11 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday February 9, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.11 - Due</u> 14 - Compositional Etude No.12 – Assigned + - Due in 1 week
Wednesday February 9, 2022	+ - <u>Compositional Etude No.12 – Due</u>
Saturday February 19- Sunday February 27	Fall Reading Week – No Classes – University is Open + - Family Day – Monday February 21 + - Holiday - University is Closed

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

~~|Wednesday March 9, 2022~~

|Wednesday March 16, 2022****

|+|- Term 2 Composition – **Due**

|+|- Score fully completed

|+|- Parts ready to be extracted

|+|- Ready to rehearse over the next week

|Monday March 14, 2022 –

|Friday March 18, 2022

|+|- Term 2 Composition rehearsals with performers

|+|- In-class rehearsals on Monday and Wednesday**

|+|- additional rehearsals outside of class

time****

**depending upon availability of performers

***if it is deemed that additional rehearsals outside of class time are necessary, the scheduling and leading of these rehearsals is the sole responsibility of each individual student composer

~~|Monday March 21, 2022~~

|Monday March 28, 2022****

|+|- Reading/Recording Session No.1

|+|- Studio 242 – Music Building

|+|- 12:30-1:30pm

~~|Wednesday March 23, 2022~~

|Wednesday March 30, 2022****

|+|- Reading/Recording Session No.2

|+|- Studio 242 – Music Building

|+|- 12:30-2:30pm

~~|Monday March 28, 2022~~

|Monday April 4, 2022****

|+|- Reading/Recording Session No.3

|+|- Studio 242 – Music Building

|+|- 12:30-1:30pm

~~|Wednesday March 30, 2022~~

|Wednesday April 6, 2022****

|+|- Reading/Recording Session No.4

|+|- Studio 242 – Music Building

|+|- 12:30-2:30pm

****Reading/recording dates have been moved ahead by one week which is in line with delayed start of the winter term by one week.

Music 2629 – Composition I
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall-Winter 2021-22

Important Sessional Dates

2021

Monday September 6	Labour Day	Official Holiday – University is closed
Wednesday September 8	Classes Resume	Music 2629-2021-22 – First Meeting
Thursday September 16	last day to add a full course, or a first-term half course	
Monday October 11	Thanksgiving	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday November 1-7	Fall Reading Week	No Classes – University is Open
Tuesday November 30 penalty	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course without	
Wednesday December 8	Fall/Winter Term Classes End	
Thursday December 9	Study Day	
Friday December 10-21	Exam Period	

2022

Monday January 3	Classes resume	
Tuesday January 11 full course	Last day to add a second-term half course or a second-term	
February 19-27	Spring Reading Week - No Classes – University is Open	
[February 21]	Family Day	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday March 07	Last day to drop a second-term half course, or a second-term full course without academic penalty	
Friday April 1	Fall/Winter Term classes end, <i>no fooling!</i>	
Saturday April 2-3	Study Days.	
Monday April 4-30	Final examination period	