

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

**Music 1629a – Intro to Composition**

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Lupker

Office location and email: TC 319, [jlupker@uwo.ca](mailto:jlupker@uwo.ca)

Office hours: *by appointment*

**Course Prerequisites:** None but restricted to students enrolled in the Don Wright Faculty of Music. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may 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.

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

**Course Outcomes:** Begin to define a personal style and to shape a creative identity. Throughout short composition assignments, a listening test, a final project and weekly score analyses of 19<sup>th</sup> century to present day scores, this course aims to increase student's music vocabulary and compositional techniques. Experimentation with topics learned throughout the semester is encouraged with any composition projects. Develop collaboration skills by linking with performers who will perform final projects.

**Required Course Materials:**

- Staff paper, a pencil and good quality eraser.
- A binder for collecting handouts.

*Except for the final project where students can utilize score notation software (Sibelius, Finale, etc.), all assignments must be handwritten.*

**Recommended Reference Texts:**

Students are encouraged to purchase an orchestration textbook and a music notation manual for personal reference. Other recommended and helpful books are also listed below.

Notation

George Heussenstamm, *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co.

Orchestration

Samuel Adler, *The Study of Orchestration*, (Third Edition), New York: Norton. ISBN 039397572X

### Composition

Arnold Schoenberg (eds. Gerald Strang & Leonard Stein), *Fundamentals of Music Composition*, London, Faber and Faber Ltd.

Knud Jeppesen, *Counterpoint: The Polyphonic Vocal Style of the Sixteenth Century*, Mineola, Dover Publications, Inc.

### **Coursework Timetable:**

Assignment 1 – Melody – Due September 19<sup>th</sup>

Assignment 2 – Variations & Counter Melodies – Due October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Assignment 3 – Harmony – Due October 17<sup>th</sup>

Assignment 4 – Texture – Due November 7<sup>th</sup>

Assignment 5 – Rhythm – Due November 21<sup>st</sup>

Listening Test – November 9<sup>th</sup>

### Final Project

First meetings – October 24<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> **\*\*No classes this week\*\***

Second meetings – November 28<sup>th</sup> & November 30<sup>th</sup> **\*\*No classes this week\*\***

First draft of score – Due on the date of your in-class performance

Final project hand in – Due December 8<sup>th</sup>

**Semi-private meetings dates:** During the listed dates above for meetings, class time will be cancelled and replaced with 20-minute semi-private lessons during which students (in groups of two) will present work-in-progress on their composition projects. The first set of meetings takes place before reading week and students must have decided on their instrumentation and have some basic sketches/ideas ready for this meeting. The second meeting takes place before in-class performances begin and students should be prepared to show significant or completed works by this point. These meetings will take place in my office, TC 319 (or on Zoom as a contingency plan).

### **In-class performance dates**

Studio 242 has been reserved for us during class time near the end of the semester in order to have all final projects performed and recorded. Sign-up sheets will be posted outside of my office around reading week in order to give students ample time to find and book students who can perform their work.

Students can sign up their groups on a first come, first serve basis. Dates are as follows:

November 28<sup>th</sup> & November 30<sup>th</sup>

December 5<sup>th</sup> & December 7<sup>th</sup>

**\*\*Students are responsible for finding players for their compositions and for leading at least one rehearsal prior to the performance in Studio 242\*\***

**\*\*Classes these weeks will all take place in Studio 242 and will consist of in-class readings of student compositions\*\***

## Evaluation:

5 Bi-weekly take-home assignments	25% (5% each)
1 Listening Test	15%
Final Composition Project <i>3-5 minute-long composition for up to 3 instruments</i>	
- Score	35%
- Parts	5%
- Technical Note/Program Note <i>1-2 pages on the approach to the composition and decisions made. This document should also include how different methods learned in class were utilized in the piece. A program note for the composition should also be included within this document.</i>	5%
- Semi-private lessons attendance & preparedness	5%
In-class performance	5%
Attendance & participation in class	5%

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

The final composition project will be evaluated according to its overall artistic merit, how concepts addressed in class are utilized throughout and how the established guidelines and goals are realized. Originality and effective control of musical parameters such as melody, harmony, texture, rhythm and instrumentation will be taken into account. Musical notation, calligraphy (when written by hand) 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 ongoing work for their final composition project during occasional semi-private lessons. Overall preparedness and attendance for these lessons will factor into the evaluation of the final project. Signup sheets for these 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. Depending on class numbers and time restraints, some students may need to have their lesson outside of regular class time or lessons may feature two students at a time.

**Notation:** All bi-weekly assignments must be completely notated by hand. Therefore, correct and neat notation is essential. Any submitted work that is difficult to read, untidy or incorrectly notated will be

evaluated accordingly. If a project is deemed too illegible or problematic to read, the instructor reserves the right to either give the assignment a zero or request that it be recopied neatly. Any assignments notated with a computer software program will not be graded and will be given a zero (this does not include the final project).

**Submission of work:** Each assignment is due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated above. The final composition project is due December 7<sup>th</sup> before 4pm. It is to be handed in at my office (TC 319).

The final composition project must be photocopied double-sided and bound with a spiral or cerlox binding. It must also include a cover page, the program note and any special performance notes (if applicable). Parts are also to be handed in with the score but do not need to be bound. The five bi-weekly assignments do not need any special binding.

**Late assignments:** Penalty for late assignments is 5% each day up to a week. Assignments will not be accepted one week after the due date.

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

**Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%):** Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, 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 their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

**Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%):** In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the

missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

**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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**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.**

**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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**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>

**Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered 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 assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) or call 519 661-3568.

**Compulsory First Year Exam Exemption:** The Dean's office has granted this course an exemption from the Senate policy that requires each first-year course (1000-1999) to administer a common, compulsory, final examination scheduled during the examination period worth not less than 30% of the final grade.

**Examinations & Attendance:** Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

**Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

**Electronic Devices in Classrooms:** The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class uses) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

**Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).