

## **Music 3680B: Fighting about Music in the French Enlightenment**

Don Wright Faculty of Music, Western University

Winter 2022 / Tuesdays, 10:30–12:30 and Thursdays, 11:30–12:30

Music Building, Room 140

Instructor: Dr. Jonathan De Souza

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Office hours: Thursdays, 10:30–11:30, and by appointment

Office: Talbot College, Room 117

### **Overview**

In eighteenth-century France, there were intense debates about music—about music's relation to nature and culture, mathematics and language, reason and emotion; about melody, harmony, tuning, and tonal organization; about music's origins, and its social or political functions. This course brings those debates to life through Reacting to the Past pedagogy, a student-centred approach that teaches history through *immersive role-playing games*. In a series of games, you will take on the roles of historical figures, read primary texts, discuss and write about key ideas, strategize with your allies, and try to outwit your opponents. The games will offer new perspectives on music and Enlightenment thought, including many musical issues and questions that are still relevant today.

### **Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you'll have detailed knowledge of the music and culture of eighteenth-century France; you will have strengthened skills in critical reading, music analysis, and verbal and written communication; and you'll be able to evaluate philosophical issues in music theory and aesthetics.

### **Materials**

Readings and resources will be available via OWL. Additional resources will be on reserve at the Music Library. We will use Discord to facilitate game-related communication, so if you don't already have one, you will need to create a free Discord account.

## Contact

If you have general questions about the course, please post them on the OWL Forums. For individual issues, please contact me through OWL Messages or if OWL isn't working, email me at [jdesou22@uwo.ca](mailto:jdesou22@uwo.ca). I aim to reply to messages within 24 hours from Monday to Friday and within 48 hours on weekends and holidays.

I'll be available to chat with students on Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am. These are my regular "Office Hours", which means that you don't need to make an appointment then. Feel free to stop by my office in person or virtually (through OWL's Zoom tool). I'm also happy to set up individual appointments at other times. Just send me a message, and we'll find a suitable date and time.

## Evaluation

Your course grade will be based on the following five elements:

Historical Information Quizzes	10% (2 × 5%)	due Jan. 26, Feb. 28
Character Assignments	20% (2 × 10%)	due Feb. 9, Mar. 14
Writing Assignments	30% (2 × 15%)	due Feb. 16, Mar. 21
Reflection Essay	10%	due Apr. 6
Participation in Games	30%	

Before gameplay begins for *Music Theory at the Académie Royale des Sciences* and *The Querelle des Bouffons*, you must complete a *historical information quiz* (multiple-choice, online via OWL). During each of those games, you will complete a relevant *character assignment*, which involves research related to your role. By the end of those games, you will also choose a game-related *writing assignment* to submit for grading. At the end of the course, you will submit a *reflection essay*.

*Participation* will be assessed for each session of gameplay, according to rubrics that I will provide. To do well, you will need to engage actively in discussion and be prepared to pursue your victory objectives and inhabit your role. Reading the assigned texts and listening to the assigned repertoire will be essential for successful preparation.

## Schedule

Jan. 10: Introduction

Jan. 12–19: Lully vs. Rameau at the Opera Ball, 1733

Jan. 24–Feb. 16: Music Theory at the *Académie Royale des Sciences*, 1749

Feb. 18–26: Reading Week

Feb. 28–Mar. 23: The *Querelle des Bouffons*, 1752–1754

Mar. 28–Apr. 4: *Ludus Melothedicus*, or the Harmonic Dice Game, 1758

Apr. 6: Conclusion

Our schedule may need to be adjusted during the term, as Reacting-to-the-Past games require a certain amount of flexibility. Any adjustments will be communicated as early as possible. For extended games, you will receive further details about each session as gameplay unfolds.

## University Policies

All students are welcome in the course, so if I can make it more accessible to you, please don't hesitate to contact me. Also, if you require specific accommodations, please make sure that your accommodations are active on the Accommodated Exams website

(<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/Accommodatedexamssignup/>). The university's official policies related to accessibility and accommodations appear below.

i) **Course Prerequisites:** Music 2651A/B or the former Music 2650A/B, Music 2641U or the former Music 2636A/B. 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.

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 & 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.

iv) **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(ze)s 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.

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](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 UCII 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](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:** 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.

x) **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.

### Important Dates

January 9	Classes Begin
January 17	Last day to add a second-term half course
February 18–26	Spring Reading Week (no classes)
March 7	Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty
April 7	Good Friday (no classes)
April 10	Last Day of Classes
April 11–12	Study Days
April 13–30	Final Examination Period