

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC

Course **MUSIC 2886T 001 FW22** Secondary Instruments Cello & Bass

Cello

Class Room: MB341 Office: TC16 Office Hours mostly Online by App.

Instructor: Adrian Wright. awrigh94@uwo.ca (note: no “t” in wrigh)

cell. 519 902 6824 (email preferred, then texts only please)

This is a half semester intensive course that will aim to introduce students to the principles and practice of beginner cello teaching. The aim will be to use their perspectives as pupils in a class and as online students to help them gain insights into the basic pedagogical issues, hoping that this will help them towards being effective teachers.

A tentative outline of class content.

Week	Main Technique & Pedagogy	Introducing or Including	Notes	Assessments
1-3	1. Seating & posture , with holding the cello 2. Bow hold and bowing , using the whole arm & shoulder.	1. Cello care and structure, very briefly 2. Bass clef and the cello strings 3. Pizzicato	The 3 Bolded items are fundamental and should receive attention through the course.	1. “Around the class” session/s. Your opportunity to play to and teach your fellows
2-4	3. Left hand and fingering , also using the whole arm & shoulder.	Aural & Visual methods, progressing to include the use of printed material. Always spend time practicing & teaching in a simply aural & visual way.		
3 on	Applying the above in worksheets and melodies. We will work on 3 or 4 in class. Ideally you will tackle others on your own. There are plenty in the booklet.	We will practice understanding the physical context for our actions that makes everything easy.	Learning to apply your combined techniques in real music situations.	2. Your Flipgrid Video submissions through the course
5-6	Explorations of further techniques, to the extent that we have time.	Shifting and extending. If time: bowing techniques, vibrato -	These rest on the back of the first basic fundamentals	3. Playing a tune with discussion.

Assignments, Learning Modes & Material

- You will be given a course booklet containing information, exercises, worksheets, melodies & more.
- There is a course website with Video Tutorials, Video lessons, my pictorial guide, backing tracks etc. I will prompt you to move on to the appropriate sections as the classes go by.
- This material should be viewed or participated with prior to class and used after class with a cello, to ensure that new skills have been worked with and understood. Then is a good time to frame questions for the next class. Repetition of this sequence will be vital to the student's success on our timeline. There is no time to fall behind as each stage is dependent on those before and 6 weeks is a very short time to cover even the very basics.
- The above is doubly so if we mainly meet online. I will be relying on you to have diligently worked through online material in order that we still progress in a satisfactory way for all.
- After the first 3 to 4 classes worksheets or melodies will be used in class and set for practice. We will choose the melodies for you to play to us in class or via flipgrid giving us mini playing/teaching opportunities, and preparing us for the final playing test and mini viva.
- Short Flipgrid Video submissions through the course will give you the opportunity to demonstrate your engagement with all methods of learning and allow us to see and react to each other's work whether we are in class or online. It is vital to a course such as this and will constitute the biggest chunk of the marks. Your testing load will be adjusted as necessary according to current circumstances and the weighting similarly adjusted. In the meantime Videos will be marked out of 100.
- The videos will form your personal guide to basic technique and beyond assessing your progress can become part of your portfolios, for your future reference.
- As additional material for future reference you are welcome to download any part of my website material, though it is not designed for further dissemination and I retain the rights to it.
- You get to choose a tune to play as a final assessment in the last class, from a broad selection. We will have a discussion and some questions for you, all part of the assessment
- **Attendance & engagement** are central to this course as in all the secondary instrument classes. 10% of the marks are applied to attendance here and your engagement will be assessed through the Videos you upload.

Grade Structure	%	% Cello/Bass
One or Two "around the class" playing/teaching sessions	30	15
A series of Videos recorded through the course <i>point value of each will be decided as is appropriate and moderated for engagement</i>	40	20
Playing of a Melody and Questions	20	10
Attendance	10	5

What you need to bring.

Ideally you should not need stands & pencils as where possible we will use a data projector to work without stands, for better sight lines. However with distancing we cannot be sure. In any case please bring the course booklet (see below), in case of technical difficulty. If we have classes online you will need your Laptop. Also a music stand and the course booklet.

What I will provide.

I will be giving you the course booklet to be used in class, provided I do see you in person at the start of the course, but all material for the course will be available online through Owl or the website. If I do not see you in person you will need to print out the course booklet (double sided with two staples to the left for binding, I suggest). Video will only be available through the website which is also the easiest way to access all materials.

Tardiness

Arriving late for two classes is equivalent to one unexcused absence and is recorded as such. For the purposes of the cello register you are tardy if you arrive 10 minutes after the start of class. If tardiness becomes a problem for the class this may be reduced to 5 minutes for the individuals causing the problem.

Tardiness is something we must take seriously as it can impact on the whole class. Any latecomers must tune outside, come in quietly and wait to be invited to take a seat. If necessary, just observe.

Class setup routine.

We need to be tuned for the class to start at 30 mins past the hour, as for a rehearsal. Please arrive by 25 mins past the hour it at all possible. We **must** start and press on through our material **from 30 minutes past. See below under “Instruments” for the routine for the first class.**

If classes are online then be sure to be fully ready to participate with a tuned cello and good sight lines etc. We will establish these, and how to set up for sound, at the beginning of the course.

Instruments.

Please note that instrument (key) sign-outs will be held in TC 313, likely 9.00am-1:00pm Monday, 9.00 till 2pm Tuesday to Friday but check times on the door. You will be issued with a key. Do not collect your instrument prior to the first class but **do sign out your key**. We will meet in the classroom first on this occasion. This will allow for a brief initial discussion on carrying and handling cellos. They are very fragile and have no cases. They are not to be removed from the building.

Bass

Lectures: Tues 8:30-9:20 & Thur 8:30-9:20,

Instructor: Filip Stasiak,

E-mail: fstasia@uwo.ca

Phone: 519-521-0364

Office Hours: Online by appt.

Course Content:

This course should enable you

1. To develop enough performance ability to correctly demonstrate basic techniques for beginning students. You will find that playing the double bass is physically demanding, and consequently some daily practice, and regular attendance (and therefore monitoring) is essential to build strength and avoid pain. Please consult me if you experience any physical discomfort from playing, beyond the feeling of having done mild exercise.
2. To develop the capacity to recognize beginners' performance deficiencies quickly, prioritize them, and convey effective solutions; and to appraise more advanced students.
3. To understand some abstract principles of fingering and bowing, and to apply them in editing music appropriate for beginning and intermediate players.
4. In general, then, to launch a beginner successfully; and to be knowledgeable about the double bass as an orchestral instrument, to the level of a secondary school or youth orchestra.

The course is not designed to explore the history of the instrument, its solo literature, or its leading historical and contemporary performers, except incidentally. You are, however, encouraged to read the article and related links in *New Grove Online*, and to listen to recordings by such artists as *Joel Quarrington*, *Gary Karr*, *Thomas Martin*, *Ludwig Streicher*, *Francesco Petracchi*, and *Edgar Mayer*. While jazz repertoire and improvisation are not explicitly part of this course, the basics that we do concentrate on underpin fluent performance of *all* styles of music.

Course Materials:

You will need a key for the bass padlocks available from Len, and a copy of **Essential Elements for Strings Double Bass Book 1** which is available for you to borrow from the music library.

Supplemental materials, assignments, and announcements will be available on the Owl course page (<http://owl.uwo.ca/portal>). Be sure to check the course page regularly for updates.

Marking Scheme:

Performance (60% of final mark for Bass portion of course, 30% of final Cello/Bass course total)

Even though this is not a performance-based class, a minimum performance standard must be reached in order to help better understand the learning process and problems that a beginning student will encounter. The performance material will

be taken from the *Essential Elements* series that is used by many local secondary schools. It is very likely that you will encounter this series (or one very similar to it) in your future jobs as music educators. Every day we will work from the book and divide the grading in the following manner:

- 6 short video performance/demonstration assessments chosen from *Essential Elements* book, worth 10% each. One test assigned each week beginning in the 1st week of classes. Test material will be announced one week ahead of time.

Since we have very limited classroom time together, I will post online links to example videos and extra tutorials to help explain content of all the material required for this course. Please review and familiarize yourself with the content prior to each class in order to maximise our time together.

Analytical writing (30% of final mark for Bass portion of course, 15% of final Cello/Bass course total)

There will be three written assignments during the semester. These will include short worksheets on preferred fingering and bowings as well as writing a critical appraisal of a players' strengths and weaknesses based on example videos/photos.

Teaching, coaching, participation (10% of final mark for bass portion of course, 5% of final Cello/Bass course total)

As often as possible through the term, individual students will be called upon to teach a partner, and coach the whole class as a section.

i) **Course Prerequisites: MUSIC 2886R 001 FW21.** 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:** 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.

x) **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.