Applied Harp Course Outline
Western University
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Fall 2020 & Winter 2021

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• To prepare students for post-graduate harp programs, to learn scholarly applications of harp performance study, and/or to foster skills for professional work in performance and teaching.
• To build fundamental technical skills and become familiar with a diverse range of pedagogical methodologies.
• To expand students’ solo and ensemble repertoire lists and encourage curiosity and engagement with repertoire both in and outside the Western European and North American classical harp canons.
• To cultivate confidence, intelligence, creativity, and individuality in students’ musical perspectives and identities.
• To develop professionalism and expertise in solo and ensemble performance.
• To engage in critical discussions about classical and contemporary harp performance practices, body & wellness, pedal harp pedagogy, and European and world harp histories.

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Dr. Noël Wan, Assistant Professor
Studio Room: Music Building 35
Office Hours: By appointment
Email: nwan9@uwo.ca
Office Phone: (519) 661-2111 ext. 82043

COURSE INFORMATION
Lessons: TBA, Music Building 35
Performance Classes: TBA, Music Building 35

Students registered in any of the following Applied courses receive 24 lessons of 50 minutes* each, normally 12 per term: 1920, 1925, 2925, 2920, 2921, 3925, 3920, 3922, 3929, 4925, 3921, 4920, 4921, 4922, 4923, 4929. Students registered in 3924y or 4924y receive 12 hours of lessons, spread throughout the year.

Undergraduate performance majors registered in one of the following courses also receive 12 lessons of 50 minutes* each, oriented toward recital requirements: 3921, 4921, 4922, 4923.

Graduate students in Literature and Performance receive 48 lessons (50 minutes* duration each), spread over four terms (9509a, 9584b, 9585a and 9786b), normally 12 lessons per term.

*COVID-19 protocol for 2020-21: all studio lessons will instead be 45 minutes, followed by a 15-minute break, to ensure sufficient time for room ventilation between lessons.
Please consult the Music Performance Studies Handbook for more information on applied lessons:


**COURSE FORMAT FOR FALL 2020-WINTER 2021**

Lessons and performance classes will adhere to blended model of face-to-face (f2f) and online instruction. Currently, I plan on f2f meetings for lessons, and a combination of f2f and Zoom meetings for performance classes. If you require an online lesson for any given week, please contact me in advance. In the event that all university courses be moved 100% online, we will conduct both lessons and performance classes through Zoom.

**Face masks must be worn at all times during f2f meetings. If you are unable to wear a face mask for any reason, we will meet online for lessons, and I will require you to participate remotely in performance classes. Remote participation will involve Zooming into a performance class and/or submitting a performance class quality video to me.**

All materials, notes, and assignments will be sent to your Western email account or applications (i.e. Word, OneNote, OneDrive) accessible through your Western email.

**Zoom Tips:** Enable “High Fidelity Music Mode” and select “Enable Original Sound” for any Zoom calls involving performance participation.

**Recommended equipment for Zoom meetings:**
- USB microphone (i.e. Blue Yeti) or other external microphone set-up
- Laptop or desktop with webcam
- Wired (not Bluetooth) headphones
- **Note:** These are only recommendations to ensure a high-quality online course experience. You are not required to buy any of these items for the course.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

As university students enrolled in a professional music program, you are expected to be accountable to your academic and musical progress. Familiarize yourself with the prerequisites of your degree program, meet deadlines accordingly, and never hesitate to ask questions if you are unsure about something.

Expectations for this course include: attendance at lessons and performance classes; regular participation in performance classes; completion of any writing and/or recording assignments; performing in studio recitals; and attending all designated mandatory harp activities and events.

**Lessons:** Please come to your lessons prepared and warmed up. Students should expect to work concurrently on 3-5 solo works per year and 4 orchestral excerpts per term (total 8). Year 3 & 4 Performance Majors must prepare either a substantial chamber work (i.e. harp quintet) or a concerto, which will be performed either on a degree recital or a studio recital. Unless otherwise discussed, memorization is required for all solo repertoire.
Performance Class: Performance classes provide opportunities to play in front of your studio-mates. Solo works must be performed memorized and at (or near) recital level, and orchestral excerpts must be prepared at audition level. You must play assigned orchestral excerpts in performance class in order to “pass” them. All jury and recital repertoire must be played at least once (with accompanist, if needed) in performance class prior to the jury or recital. **There will be 3 performance classes per term, or a total of 6 between the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 terms.**

Performance class hour will also be used for topic discussions, lectures, mock auditions, and guest presentations/masterclasses.

Practice: Consistent, daily practice is mandatory for success and progress in a student’s musical studies. I recommend at least **1 hour** of practice per day. Performance Majors should aim for at least **2-4 hours** of practice per day. Be mindful of physical and mental strain during long practice sessions; dividing daily practice into smaller periods can ease stress and tension. Stay hydrated and fueled, exercise, get enough sleep, avoid over-caffeinating, and stretch fingers, arms, legs, neck, and back after each practice.

Professionalism: Students should treat peers, colleagues, faculty, and staff with courtesy and respect in and outside the Faculty of Music. How you conduct yourself in person and online will affect your professional reputation in the future; be conscious of and intentional about what you post on social media.

Educate yourselves on email etiquette, such as proper salutations for staff and faculty, and always respond to messages within 1-2 days of receipt. Do not email professors and accompanist at the last minute and be sure to submit any requests (i.e. recommendation letters) far in advance. Check your university email regularly.

Please reply to any emails or texts from me regarding rescheduling/make-up lessons within 24 hours.

**STUDIO POLICIES**

Please show up to lessons and performance classes on time. Tardiness of more than 10 minutes will result in a missed lesson and will count toward unexcused absences. If you anticipate arriving late to a lesson or performance class, please let me know ahead of time.

Absences & Deferrals: As stated in the MPS Handbook, instructors are not obligated to make up lessons cancelled by students. Any unexcused absences will result in a grade drop. For university policies on jury or recital deferrals, consult the following page:


Make-up Lessons: In the event that I am unable to teach a lesson, I will reschedule a make-up. If you must cancel a lesson, I am willing to arrange a make-up lesson if you let me know in advance (minimum 48 hours, with exception of emergencies). If you are feeling the slightest bit unwell, however, please do not try to come to your lesson. For any same-day, emergency cancellations (i.e. illness, family emergency), please text me as early as possible.
**Studio Room:** The harp studio (MB 35) will be used for lessons and instructor office hours. Harp students should only use the room for practicing and small ensemble rehearsals. I will post a room reservation sheet on the door once lesson times have been confirmed. Please **sign up** for practice or rehearsal time slots in advance to ensure sufficient practice hours for yourself.

Because the studio is a shared space, please keep the room clean and tidy. Eating and drinking is allowed (not at the harp) as long as all garbage is properly disposed. Do not leave compostables, such as banana peels, in the room.

**Studio Harp:** Following COVID-19 preventive measures, students must wash their hands thoroughly before using the school harp. Please do not leave the harp’s dust cover on the floor and replace the cover after you have finished practicing.

**Strings:** Please record any broken strings on the String Sheet posted in the Studio Room.

**COVID-19-SPECIFIC STUDIO GUIDELINES**

The Faculty of Music will provide disinfecting wipes for the studio room. Please **only use the wipes on the studio bench, music stand(s), piano, light switches, door handles, any furniture used, and other hard surfaces you may have touched during room use.**

You are responsible for bringing your own harp disinfecting supplies if you are using the school harp. **Please make sure you have the following items:**

- Pack of microfiber rags (available online or from any hardware store)
- Hand sanitizer (at least 68% alcohol)
- Zip-top plastic bag

**Rules for cleaning and disinfecting the harp:**

1) Hand sanitizer (with up to 68% alcohol) has been successfully tested as a disinfectant for gut, wire, and nylon harp strings. Apply sanitizer to a microfiber cloth and gently wipe the strings. Excess friction, either from heavy rubbing or an abrasive cloth (i.e. paper towels), will damage the strings.

2) Isopropyl alcohol (70%) is safe to use on nylon and wire strings.

3) **DO NOT USE** alcohol, bleach, ammonia, and other sanitizing solutions on the harp’s wood finish.

4) **DO NOT USE** Lysol wipes, or other commercial brands of disinfecting wipes, to disinfect either the strings or the body of the harp.

5) Wiping the body of the harp with a diluted soap solution and a microfiber cloth is currently the best option for most harps. **This method is akin to hand-washing** and will only remove--not kill--any viruses on the harp’s surface. Therefore, the soundboard, body, and neck of the harp should be cleaned and thoroughly dried before and after each use. I will provide a bottle of diluted soap solution for studio use.

6) **Do not reuse microfiber cloths until after they have been disinfected.** Store used cloths in a zip-top plastic bag or container to avoid contaminating other surfaces.

Please follow these rules to ensure the physical safety of your colleagues and your instructor. I suggest you keep these disinfecting items with your “harp kit” (e.g. tuner, metronome, tuning key, nail clippers, etc.)
REQUIRED MATERIALS

Repertoire: You are responsible for procuring your own hard copies of music and bringing them to every lesson. Original scores and library copies are preferred, but I will also accept some editions of public domain scores from IMSLP. Acceptable IMSLP scores must be legible and clean (mostly free of markings). Please organize photocopied parts in a binder or folder. I may occasionally provide an educational copy of a part (with markings) for reference.

If you use digital scores, you may bring your tablet to lessons as long as you also provide a way for me to mark or provide comments for the music. All materials must comply with Canadian copyright law.

Tuner & Tuning Key: You must own a tuner and a tuning key. For ensemble rehearsals, a tuner pick-up (also called “contact microphone”) is also useful to ensure accurate tuning in noisier environments. Although phone tuner apps are inexpensive options, I recommend investing in a designated tuner and pick-up microphone. Korg offers many excellent tuners at different price points.

Metronome: A metronome is essential in a harpist’s daily practice. Some tuners are equipped with metronomes. Another option is downloading a free or premium metronome app through a smartphone.

Practice Journal: Students should bring a blank, lined notebook to their first lesson. This book will be used for all lesson notes as well as other course-related items (i.e. deadline reminders, recital repertoire lists). The practice journal will also be used by the student to keep track of personal progress and goals.

Performance Shoes: Please bring a pair of designated “harp shoes” to lessons and performance classes. You may store your harp shoes in the studio.

Recording Device: Please bring a recording device (phone is acceptable) to performance classes. Students are required to record their performance class performances. I also encourage students to record (video or audio) themselves practicing for self-assessment and for checking posture, gestures, and facial expressions.

Accompanist: Students must provide and compensate their own accompanists for lessons, performance classes, juries, and recitals. Please treat collaborative pianists with professionalism: provide clear copies of their parts, schedule rehearsals in advanced, show up to rehearsals early (to tune the harp), be prepared for rehearsals, and make sure you have each other’s contact information and are accessible. The Faculty has provided a list of local accompanists:

http://www.music.uwo.ca/about/resources/accompanists.html
**JURIES**

All undergraduate students taking Applied Music instruction are required to take a jury examination.

All Honours Performance, Artist Diploma and Music Performance Diploma students registered in 3921, 4921, 4922, 4923 will do a jury in December. The repertoire will be selected from the Jury Requirements for each instrument, out of which 10 minutes will be heard. All students registered in 1920, 1925, 2925, 2920, 3924y, 3925, 2921, 3920, 3922, 3929, 4924y, 4920, 4925 or 4929 will do a year-end jury in April scheduled at 15-minute intervals.


**RECITALS**

Credit Recitals (3930a/b/y, 4930a/b/y, 4931a/b/y, 4932a/b/y) are required in the third and fourth years of the Performance program, in third year of the Music Performance Diploma program, and in the One-Year Artist Diploma program. Refer to the MPS Handbook on Credit Recitals: [https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/credit-recitals.html](https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/credit-recitals.html)

**Studio Recital:** A studio recital may be scheduled during the Winter Term. Students will be able to perform solo or chamber repertoire and/or showcase any projects (i.e. compositions) from either the Fall or Winter term. Each studio recital will also feature harp duos, performed either by students or with the instructor.

**GRADING**

Students will be evaluated based on performance, musical and technical growth, participation, and attitude in lessons (Studio Instructor Mark). Grading percentages and policies for undergraduates can be found in the MPS Handbook under “Undergraduate Grading”:


Each term’s Studio Instructor Mark will be based on the following percentage breakdown:

- Attendance and Participation* 50%
- Preparedness 40%
- Assignments 10%

*Unexcused absences will count toward Attendance and Participation.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Applied Harp Course Packet

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS**

* Vingt Célèbres Études, volumes 1 & 2 (Bochsa)
**Principal Harp: A Guidebook for the Orchestral Harpist, Books 1 & 2 (Bullen)**
**Metodo per arpa** (Grossi)
**Test Pieces for Orchestral Auditions Harp** (Konhaeuser/Storck)
**Exercices et Études** (Larivière)
**Septs Sonates Progressives** (Naderman)
**Method for Harp** (Renié)
**Method for Harp** (Salzedo/Lawrence)
**Conditioning Exercises** (Salzedo)
**Studi di Media Difficolta** (Pozzoli)

**RECOMMENDED READING**
The Royal Conservatory of Music Harp Syllabus, ed. 2009
American Harp Journal
**Harp Column**
**UKHA HARP Magazine**
World Harp Congress Review
**Guide to the Contemporary Harp** (Aubat-Andrieu et al.)
**Harps and Harpists: Revised Edition** (Rensch)
**Harp Music in the Nineteenth Century** (Zingel)
http://astridbaumgardner.com
http://bulletproofmusician.com

**SCORE RESOURCES**
UWO Music Library – also check under “Databases”
IMSLP/Petrucci
Classical Scores Library (Alexander Street)
WorldCat (Interlibrary Loan)

**IMPORTANT DATES (FALL 2020-WINTER 2021)**
Sept 9 – Undergraduate classes begin
Sept 17 – Last day to add a first term half-course or full course
Oct 12 – Thanksgiving Day Holiday (classes excused)
Nov 2-8 – Fall Reading Week (classes excused)
Nov 12 – Last day to drop a first term half-course without academic penalty
Nov 30 – Last day to drop a full course without academic penalty
Dec 9 – Last day of first term classes
Dec 10 – Study Day (classes excused)
Dec 11-22 – Final Exam Period
Jan 4 – Undergraduate classes begin
Feb 13-21 – Winter Reading Week (classes excused)
Feb 15 – Family Day (classes excused)
Mar 7 – Last day to drop second term half courses
Apr 2 – Good Friday (classes excused)
Apr 5 – Last day of second term classes
Apr 6-7 – Study Days
Apr 8-30 – Final Exam Period
NOTES

i) Course Prerequisites: None. 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.

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_dabilities.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

NOTES SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS COVID-19-RELATED ISSUES FOR 2020-21 ONLY

i) 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.

ii) Recording of Online Activities: All of the remote learning sessions 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.

iii) 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
• Be prepared to turn your video camera off at the instructor’s request if the internet connection becomes unstable

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.

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.