Western Viola Studio  
last revised September 2022

Instructors: Sharon Wei, Jeffrey Komar  
Email: swei48@uwo.ca, jkomar2@uwo.ca  
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 81490  
Office Hours: by appointment MB 335

Course Description:  
This course involves the study of viola performance through one-on-one lessons, performance classes, and performances. Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge of the standard viola repertoire by studying and performing works in various styles, genres and by different composers. Progress will be evaluated during every lesson and performance class.

This document lists pertinent information for your viola studies. Please read it carefully. Also, it is your responsibility to know all the contents of the UWO Music Performance Handbook. You can find it online at


Performance classes are mandatory and will be held on Thursdays 1:30pm-3:15pm in TC 101. Jeffrey Komar’s class will be held on Wednesdays 1:30pm-2:20pm. Each student must perform at least 2 times per semester.

Lessons  
Viola lessons begin the week of September 5th. Your lesson time will be emailed out to you in August. There are weekly lessons for all undergraduates For all other undergraduates, the lessons are 50 min long. Graduate students receive weekly lessons that are 50 minutes long. You will receive 12 lessons over the course of the term. For 3rd and 4th year performance majors and artist diploma students, there are 18 lessons per semester.

Cancelled/missed lessons policy: Any lessons that I cancel will be made up. You must call or email me 24 hours in advance to cancel a lesson. Lessons will not be made up unless they have been cancelled. If you cancel because you are sick and it is less than 24 hours before you lesson, email me before 10pm the evening before your scheduled lesson.

Preparation: You are expected to show up on time for your lessons. If you are more than ten minutes late for a lesson, that lesson will be forfeited. You must be warmed up at least 20 minutes before playing for a lesson. Please schedule your lesson time when you can be warmed up and early. Practicing is essential to your success in this course. Non-
Performance majors are expected to practice studio materials for a minimum of 2 hours daily and performance majors are expected to practice 3+ hours daily to cover all the material discussed in lessons. Please set up a schedule at the beginning of each semester to reserve consistent practice times.

Specific tasks will be assigned in preparation for your next lesson. Your mark will depend in part how you carry out those tasks.

Please bring the following to each lesson:
a separate, 3-ring binder with copies of the repertoire, studies and excerpts you play in the lesson. Please divide your repertoire neatly with tabs. For any repertoire that includes piano, please Xerox the piano score which should include the viola part.

Instructions for the first lesson: Please be prepared to discuss your goals for the semester. Goals include repertoire selection, recital repertoire, auditions, festival applications etc. Please bring a list of repertoire you have already worked on with previous teachers.

Please email me pdfs of all the viola parts you are currently working on by September 30

Course Materials
1. Kreutzer 42 studies for viola
2. Campagnoli 41 Caprices for viola
3. Hermann Concert Studies
4. Galamian scales for viola
5. Bach six cello suites arranged for viola (ricordi edition)
Other repertoire will be determined at your lessons.

Performance classes
Performance classes are on:

Sharon: Thursdays from 1:30pm-3:15pm in TC 101.
Jeff: Wednesdays from 1:30pm-2:20pm in TC 101.

All Music Majors, please be sure you don’t have any conflict with other classes as you are obliged to attend this class as part of your lesson requirements. Everyone should be present at each class as it is a learning opportunity for those who play and for those who are commenting.

Each student must perform at least 2 times in a semester. When and what you will perform will be discussed at your lesson. If your repertoire requires a pianist you must bring one to the class you perform in.
It is advisable that you find a pianist during the first few weeks of school. This can be through the accompanying credit that pianists are enrolled in or through the list of pianists that the performance office provides. You can find pianists in the area at this link: https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/MPS%20pdf/ProfessionalAccompanistsList.pdf

**Grading:**
Please refer to the Grading section in your handbook:

Lessons are worth 25% of your overall grade in the course and will be determined as follows:

- **Attendance/Responsibility:** /50
- **Preparation and Improvement:** /50

The performance class grade is worth 10% of your overall grade in the course and will be determined as follows:

- **Attendance:** /3
- **Minimum 2 performances:** /4
- **Oral contribution:** /3

**Concert Attendance**
All students enrolled in performance classes must attend concerts. There will be guest viola and chamber music masterclasses throughout the year. Please plan to listen/attend the following:

- **Sunday September 11** 2pm Violin Recital with Scott St John and Angela Park at Wolf Performance Hall
- **Sunday September 18** 3:00pm VKH Faculty Concert Series
- **Saturday September 24** 10am-12pm Terry Riley In C performance (all violists are invited to perform at this event!!)
- **Friday September 30** 12:30pm VKH Sojourn by Spy Denomme-Welch
- **Thursday October 6** 8:00pm VKH New Orford String Quartet
- **Friday October 7** 12:30pm VKH New Orford String Quartet and string performance students Mozart Viola Quintet
- **Friday October 21** 12:30pm VKH Duo Concertante
- **Friday October 28** 8:00pm VKH Marlboro on Tour concert
- **Friday November 18** 12:30pm VKH Viola Recital: Daphne Gerling
- **Sunday November 27** 3:00pm VKH Faculty Concert Series
Thursday December 1st  VKH Piano Trio with Scott St John, Angela Park and Rachel Mercer
Thursday December 8th  8:00pm Studio 242 Viola Studio Recital

Additionally, London is fortunate to have many other classical music series featuring world-class soloists and chamber musicians. Please be sure to check out what is happening! Here are some helpful links:

http://aeolianhall.ca
https://www.londonsymphonia.ca
http://www.jefferyconcerts.com/

Guest Masterclasses
Sunday September 25    TBC Viola Day with Teresa Rudolph and Juan Miguel Hernandez
Tuesday October 4th    7pm Cello MC with Brian Manker
Wednesday October 26th 7pm-9pm Chamber MC with Tony Rymer
Thursday October 27th  1:30pm Viola Masterclass with Abigail Fayette
Wednesday November 16th 7pm-9pm Studio 242 Viola MC: Daphne Gerling

Letters of Recommendation
Letters of Recommendation are a privilege, not an entitlement. If you require a letter for an application, please request one at least 2 weeks in advance of the deadline. A request should be made in person so that we can discuss all the relevant information needed for the letter.

Required Materials
1) Metronome or suitable metronome app on smartphone
2) Personal recording device for recording lessons, practice and performances
3) Students must own original music for any repertoire they are working on
4) External microphone for potential online lessons
5) Joint Membership to the Canadian and American Viola Society (approx $50/year)
   https://www.americanviolasociety.org/Join.php

Practice Journal
Your practice journal is an account of your personal practice sessions. Please summarize goals for the week, how you divided your practicing and the duration of your practice. Include thoughts on strengths and weaknesses that you are working on. Bring your notebook to every lesson.

Mandatory string bank workshop
Saturday, September 10th TBC
Statements required by the Senate:

I. Mandated Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** None

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(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.

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
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](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](http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo)

ix) **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.

x) **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.