

Baerg Voice Studio Policy & Course Outline (2023-2024)

Note: This document refer to the vocal courses in the above studio (undergraduate and graduate).

My Studio is Music Building 307 office phone: 519-661-2111 x85388

Please note that we will follow all of the mandated health guidelines that are suggested by the university.

The following is important information required for all courses.

i) **Course Prerequisites:** 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:**

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

Graduate: A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=0-59%.

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. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various

requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic consideration 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 due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, 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:

https://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 Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

vii) **Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Students work with Accessible Education 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 (other than statutory 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. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information. <https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

ix) **Contingency Plan:** Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require 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 course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

x) **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 / lessons, or equivalent in applied studio courses) 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.

My cell telephone number here in London is: 519-859-0427. Please do not call my number after 9:30pm. I generally require at least 24 hours notice to re-schedule a lesson. If you wake up in the morning and find that you are "under the weather" vocally, please text me to let me know and to reschedule the lesson. The studio is located in MB 307 on the third floor of the new Music Building. My e-mail address is tbaerg@uwo.ca

You will be informed of the names of our studio pianists at our first meeting in September or sooner if possible.

You will want to prepare your repertoire and diction with them and work with him as extensively as your, and his, schedule allows. Please note that the practice at Western is that you are responsible for all financial arrangements and commitments with pianist throughout the year.

Please monitor the Studio Bulletin Board (the door of MB 307) for announcements. I will certainly email as well – please ensure I have your correct email address. This is a good forum for announcements and swapping lesson times and asking questions of your more experienced colleagues. Please feel free to make suggestions as to how we can use this tool most effectively.

I encourage you to live stream your recital on a platform such as Facebook Live so that it is really is a performance and so that your family and friends can share your art with you in that wonderful moment

Studio Masterclass: All music sung in Master Class must be by memory. All of the studio will sing in each masterclass. For the first master class everyone should be prepared to sing at least one song or aria by memory.

For each piece of repertoire that you bring to a lesson with me, I expect you to have completed (before we work on the piece) a word-for-word translation and then a "poetic translation" underneath the original text. Here is a one-line example:

Dove mai quest'amor, dove spinsemi il pianto suo?
Where ever this-love where drove-me the weeping her?
To what has my love and her weeping driven me?

It is a valuable pedagogical tool to make a recording of each lesson. Please do a full debriefing of these recordings after each lesson. It may be very useful to make notes as you study these recordings.

I recommend that everyone keep a Singing Journal. Use the journal to keep track of the vocalises that you use as you practise. Use it to jot down any observations or questions that may arise as you practise or even as you observe other singers or listen to recordings.

Please ensure that you are dressed appropriately for our lessons. You should be in clothing that allows free movement for stretching and bending but which is not so baggy that I can not monitor your breathing and alignment effectively. I may often be staring at your abdomen to monitor your Breath Management; please wear a top that will allow you to sing comfortably under this focused attention. Your footwear should also be sensibly chosen to facilitate healthy alignment and grounding.

Examination material (Jury Repertoire) must be solidly memorised by the middle of February. The sooner this material is learned and memorised the sooner we can work at polishing it and the more comfortable you will be during the exam period. Try to get into a rhythm of learning a piece, coaching it and then performing it in our Performance Class.

Students are expected to be “off book” for all repertoire sessions with me and, ideally, for repertoire sessions with the studio pianist. The music and words must be firmly in your mouth and in your mind to facilitate meaningful coaching at the university level. Repertoire that you perform for Masterclasses, Performance Classes and Class Recitals must, of course, be solidly memorised.

I will require **4** written reviews of an online performance or masterclass. These reviews can discuss vocal technique, artistry and repertoire and need not be more than 200 words.

Grading:

Please read very carefully the Voice Jury/Recital Requirements document, the Department of Performance Studies Handbook as well as the Recital Procedure Page. These documents outline what the Faculty of Music requires of you. These documents are found online:

<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/juryRequirements/VOICE%20jury%20requirements.pdf>

and

<http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/credit-recitals.html>

<http://www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/index.html>