

# CELLO STUDIO OF PROFESSOR TOM WIEBE UNDERGRADUATE COURSE INFORMATION 2023-24

Welcome! I hope you have all had a good summer. I am looking forward to working with you all!

This document lists pertinent information for your cello studies. Please read it carefully. **Also, it is your responsibility to know all the contents of the UWO Music Performance website.** Here is the link to the 2023-24. Music Performance Studies department website:  
<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/index.html>

## **HOW TO REACH ME**

Email: [twiebe@uwo.ca](mailto:twiebe@uwo.ca)

Office: 661-2111 ex. 86987

Please do not text me unless you are running late for a lesson, or encountering an emergency.

My last name is pronounced "Vee-ba"

You may address me as "Tom" or "Professor Wiebe."

## **LEARNING OUTCOME**

During your year in this course, I wish for you to gain a greater love and understanding of the music you study, and learn work processes and skills by which you learn to perform it.

## **CELLO PRACTICE/STORAGE ROOMS**

The cello rooms are MB17, MB21, and MB23. You can open them once you acquire the combinations for the keypad locks (see below).

### GETTING A KEYPAD CODE

On September 1, you should have received an email from Catherine Fraser with this year's codes for each of the above cello practice/storage rooms. Please let me know if you did not receive that email. If you had access last year, your old code(s) *will no longer work* in the new school year.

**Cello:** Cello students are meant to be able to use any of these three rooms for practice so request codes for all three rooms.

MB 17

MB 21

MB 23

Finally, the security of everyone's belongings, including their cellos and bows, depends on **YOUR** mindfulness. **You must not share your code with anyone else.** You must make sure to leave the door to any cello practice room closed and locked *at all times; do not leave a cello practice room unattended and unlocked, even for a few seconds.*

## **LESSONS**

Cello lessons begin September 14.

I have posted a signup sheet with lesson slots outside my studio door. Please sign up with pencil for a time that suits your schedule. Eve receives 90-minute lessons. All others receive 60-minute lessons.

Lessons will take place in my studio.

### Bring for Lessons

You must bring a recording device to record your lessons, sufficiently charged for the entire lesson, or equipped to be charged while recording during the lesson.

I will make notes from each of your lessons, and send them to you via OneDrive.

Unless you are sick the day of the lesson, or encounter an unforeseen emergency, you must call or email me at least 24 hours in advance to cancel a lesson. I am **not** obliged to make up lessons you have cancelled. I **am** obliged to make up lessons I have cancelled. If you cancel because you are sick, please notify me by email before the lesson's start time. Please do not text me or call my cell phone unless it's an emergency—like if you're running late.

I expect you to appear on time for your lessons. If you are more than ten minutes late for a lesson, that lesson may be forfeited.

Normally, I will give you specific tasks to prepare for your next lesson. Your grade will depend in part on how you carry out those tasks.

**You must be warmed up for at least 15 minutes before a lesson. I will not hear you before you have warmed up for 15 minutes.**

### **VISION STATEMENT**

Each of you is required to email me a 360-word-or-shorter vision statement, articulating: a) what you would like to be doing after you are finished your studies; and b) *why* you want to do it. The statement is due **Monday, September 25**. Submitting it late may impact your grade.

### **REQUIRED ITEMS**

-a metronome/pitch device with drone for each pitch and pitch indicator, such as a Korg TMR-50, or equivalent technology on a smart phone app.

-a recording device, such as a phone or a laptop; **you must bring it to all lessons**; please ensure that the device you use is sufficiently charged for your entire lesson; you may delete each recorded lesson by the time of the next lesson

-for Saige and Nic: Sevcik "School of Bowing Technique for Violoncello," op. 2 (all parts), Bärenreiter or Bosworth edition. Make sure it is the cello version, not the violin version.

-the Bärenreiter edition of J.S. Bach's Solo Suites for Violoncello

-Feuillard "Daily Exercises," published by Schott

### **COVID MASKS**

For performance-based situations such as cello lessons, studio performance classes, and studio recitals, the wearing of a mask is currently optional at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. If you ask me to wear a mask during a lesson or a class, I will wear one. But, currently, neither I nor any one else can compel **you** to wear a mask for a cello lesson, cello performance class or studio recital.

### **PERFORMANCE CLASSES**

This year, bi-weekly performance classes will be in-person. You are all required to attend all performance classes for at least 60 minutes per class (the classes may last longer); all other students are encouraged to attend and play in the classes, if their schedules permit. The first performance class will be **September 21**

The final decision on who plays in class rests with me. If you want to play on a specific week, let me know.

Near the beginning of each term, I will post a schedule on OWL in the "Resources" section, announcing who plays when for the rest of term.

**The OWL schedule is the final authority** on who plays what, and when, in performance class. It is **your responsibility** to be ready to play on the dates when your name appears. It is also **your responsibility** to prepare for your performance, once you are scheduled to play on a given date, and to discuss with me in advance what you will play in class.

If the piece you play for a performance class requires a pianist, it is **your responsibility** to ensure the pianist is available for the class. If the pianist is not available, let me know at least two weeks in advance, so I can reschedule you when your pianist is available.

Each student must record their performances in class with a recording device. They should hear a recording of their performance within 48 hours after the class.

This year, I will not have a memory requirement for playing in class or studio recitals. But I might strongly encourage you to play certain unaccompanied music, such as Bach, for memory.

### **PLAYING WITH PIANISTS**

*If you are playing a degree recital this year, please consult me before booking a pianist.*

*Here are some pianists I recommend to play with you, including if you give a degree recital. You would have to pay them their rate:*

*Debbie Grigg*

*Natalia Skomorokhova*

*Catalina Teican*

If you need their contacts, please ask me.

Our Faculty of Music offers an undergraduate accompanying-for-credit program. If you need a pianist, and are not playing a degree recital this year, **let me know before classes begin**. I may be able to find a pianist through this program. Pianists in this program do not charge to play with you.

### **STUDIO RECITALS**

I will attempt to book space for at least two recitals this year. Students play at least one movement of a piece they're working on, or a short piece. Sometimes, recitals feature only some of my cello students. Normally, each student plays at least once in a studio recital during the school year.

### **JURIES**

All undergraduate students must play a cello jury in December (Eve) or April (all other undergraduates). The juries are currently expected to be in-person, with adjudicators listening in-person.

#### **GRADING**

I will grade each of your lessons unofficially out of 100. At the end of each month, I will tell you what your average lesson grade was for that month. Your lesson grades will still normally comprise the *lesson component* of this course's grade. Your studio grade will be determined by your promptness and attendance for lessons, how receptive you are during lessons, and how much you retain from lesson to lesson. I will give each of you a studio grade in December and April.

Here is the link describing the breakdown of the grading system for each cello studio lesson course number:

<https://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/MPS%20pdf/lesson-requirements.pdf>

#### **NOTES:**

i) **Course Prerequisites: 1920, 2920, 4921** 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: 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](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, the student will not be given alternate assignments, and will be graded only on the lessons they have attended, without penalty. 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 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](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-CalendarPDF.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) **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.

xi) **Evaluation Policy Exemption:** This course has received an exemption from the requirement in the Senate Policy on Evaluation of Undergraduate Academic Performance that stipulates “At least three days prior to the deadline for withdrawal from a 1000- or 2000-level course without academic penalty, students will receive assessment of work accounting for at least 15% of their final grade.”

xii) **Compulsory First Year Exam Exemption:** The Dean's office has granted this course an exemption from the Senate policy that requires each first-year course (1000-1999) to administer a common, compulsory, final examination scheduled during the examination period worth not less than 30% of the final grade.

xiii) **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.

xiv) **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.