

Western



Music 3958 – Piano Literature Fall 2023/Winter 2024

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Course Description

This course is designed as a survey of music performed, currently or historically, on the piano. The chief focus of the survey will be on those works central to the student's studio instruction as performers although works and traditions outside of that core may be considered to provide historical and cultural perspective.

The goal of the course is to provide students with

- 1) An immediate fund of core piano works that they are familiar enough to recognize and identify instantly.
- 2) Knowledge of the development of the piano as a mechanical instrument and understanding of the impact of this development on works written for it.
- 3) Awareness of broader trends in style, genre, and social function of music written for piano. Awareness of these trends will help to contextualize works that aren't immediately familiar.

- 4) The skills to research stylistic, formal, and historical features of works from across the history of piano literature; and the ability to speak and write about this research in a clear and informed manner.
- 5) An awareness of the many ways in which academic issues of style, historical context, genre, and analysis relate to practical concerns of performance.

Course Readings and Listening Lists:

Most weeks a reading and repertoire list relevant to the following week's lecture will be provided. They will be posted on the OWL course website. It will be expected that students familiarize themselves before class with both the readings and the listening examples to be discussed.

The core reference texts for this course will include:

Burge, David. *Twentieth-Century Piano Music*. Lanham, MD: Scarecrow, 2004.

Marshall, Robert L. *Eighteenth-Century Keyboard Music*. New York and London: Routledge, 2003.

(Available online through Western Library: https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044438710905163)

Silbiger, Alexander. *Keyboard Music before 1700*. New York and London: Routledge, 2004.

(Available online through Western Library: https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044433927205163)

Todd, R. Larry. *Nineteenth-Century Keyboard Music*. New York and London: Routledge, 2004. ([https://ocul-](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044956418305163)

[uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044956418305163](https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991044956418305163))

Some supplementary and more general texts that you may also be interested in consulting are:

Gillespie, John. *Five Centuries of Keyboard Music*. New York: Dover Publications, Inc., 1965.

Gordon, Stewart. *A History of Keyboard Literature: Music for the Piano and Its Forerunners*. New York: Schirmer Books, 1996.

Kirby, F. E. *Music for Piano: A Short History*. Portland, Oregon: Amadeus Press, 1995.

The core texts, as well as any other works required for reading, will be placed on course reserve in the Faculty of Music library or will be available online or through OWL. Any scores for pieces to be discussed will either be placed on course reserve, or you will be directed to some other means of accessing the material. To facilitate access, some scores may also be linked to via imslp.org or another online site.

Course Evaluation:

In order to achieve the goals listed above, a number of methods of evaluation will be employed.

1) Listening Tests (15% of final grade in total divided into 4 parts):

There will be 4 listening tests given throughout the course (two per term). These tests will be based on repertoire lists given to the students before each class and with which they will be expected to be familiar. Tests will involve listening to excerpts from the repertoire list after which students will be required to identify composers, titles of works, relevant catalogue numbers, key signatures, and/or stylistic features that enable the listener to identify those works.

2) Oral presentations (two, one per term) (2x5% each):

In consultation with the instructor, each student will be required to present two short oral presentations focused on a single work for piano. Students will make one presentation per term. The presentations will outline pertinent stylistic features, formal analysis, historical context, and performance issues as appropriate. Details of these presentations will be outlined further in writing and in discussion with the instructor. Both presentations will be made in person during class as per a schedule to be determined in the first 2 weeks of class.

3) Written Papers (two, one per term) (2x10% each):

Two written papers will be submitted by each student on each of the pieces which they presented orally in class (see **2**) above). The papers will provide detailed research information of the sources used to develop ideas. The written papers may also include additional topics brought to light during in-class discussion following the oral presentations. Specific requirements will be provided by the instructor in writing as the course progresses.

4) Mid-course Exam (15%):

The Mid-course exam will take place at the end of term one. It will consist of a listening component based on the repertoire lists developed over the course of the term as well as some short-answer and multiple-choice questions based on lecture material covered in class. Specific details of format will be discussed in class.

5) Final Exam (30%):

The final exam will be in a similar format to the midterm exam, with both a listening and a written component. It will be more extensive with questions dealing with

material from throughout the course but focused more on material from the second term. Specific details of format will be discussed in class.

6) Participation and attendance (10%):

Attendance at all classes is expected. For information on Western's policy for the accommodation of medical illness please visit the following site:

<http://www.health.uwo.ca/services/students/policies.html>

Participation will be evaluated based on the student's engagement in class discussions, attentiveness during presentations, familiarity with assigned readings and through general demonstration of a willingness to be open to the course's subject matter and to learn.

Course Calendar

The course will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays throughout the fall and winter terms from Sept. 8 to Dec. 5, 2023, and from Jan. 9 to April 5, 2024. A schedule of class dates and listening tests is given below. Dates for oral presentations and written work will be determined in consultation with the instructor as class proceeds.

2023

Sept 8- Introductory class
Sept 12/15
Sept 19/22
Sept 26/29
Oct 3/6 - First listening test
Oct 10/13
Oct 17/20
Oct 24/27
Oct. 30/Nov 3 - Reading Week
Nov 7/10- Second listening test
Nov 14/17
Nov 21/24
Nov 28/Dec 1
Dec 5
TBD - Mid-year test
-Holiday Break-

2024

Jan 9/12
Jan 16/19
Jan 23/26
Jan 30/Feb 2 - Third listening test
Feb 6/9
Feb 13/16
Feb 20/23 - Reading break
Feb 27/Mar 1
Mar 5/8 - Fourth listening test
Mar 12/15
Mar 19/22
Mar 26
Mar 29 - Good Friday
Apr 2/Apr 5
TBD - Final Examination

Notes:

i) **Course Prerequisites:** [*Music 2750F/G or the former Music 2710F/G, and Music 2671F/G or the former Music 2711F/G.*]. 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 & Missing Work ($\geq 10\%$):** 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 (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.

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 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) **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. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

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.

xi) **Electronic Devices in Exams:** Electronic devices of any type will not be permitted during the Midterm Test and/or Final Exam in this course (unless required for accessibility reasons based on an approved accommodation request from Accessible Education).

xii) **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.

xiii) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).