

**Percussion Ensemble Syllabus #954y - 4949b**

**2023/2024 Academic Year**

**Dr. Jill Ball, Assistant Professor of Percussion -**

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**IMPORTANT DATES: MANDATORY ATTENDANCE-**

**Wednesday November 22, 2023 Dress Rehearsal**

**Friday November 24, 2023 12:30 and 7:30pm Performances**

**Thursday March 14, 2024 Dress Rehearsal**

**Friday March 15, 2024 12:30 and 7:30pm Concerts**

**Prerequisites:** Satisfactory audition or permission of the instructor

Content: Through the preparation and performance of percussion ensemble repertoire, students will further develop their technical proficiency on a broad range of instruments, their musicality in a broad range of styles, their ability to balance and blend in an ensemble, and the teamwork necessary for successful rehearsals and concerts. Traditional and contemporary percussion ensemble literature as well as transcriptions and popular styles will be explored. Students are expected to have pencils, black towels for trap trays, appropriate mallets and sticks for their parts and any small instruments that will become part of their personal collection. Part assignments are based on ability, work ethic and experience.

**Grading:** All performances are mandatory especially given the one person per part nature of the repertoire. Missing a performance without justification will result in a Fail. Each member must be able to be counted on barring illness or other extraordinary circumstances. Preparation of parts, attitude, being set-up on time and helping move gear are all factors in grading. Attendance and preparation for all rehearsals is required.

**Assessment is based on the following:**

**\*Tone production/technique:** Development of full range of characteristic instrument sounds with ability to perform music of increasing complexity. There is a direct correlation between technique, tone production and tone quality.

**\*Interpersonal Skills- Communication:** good listener; doesn't criticize, condemn, or complain; tries to see things from the other person's point of view.

**Relationship building** working creatively with others, communicating clearly, and collaborating with others

**\*Musical Expression** Dynamics, Phrase, Style, Vocabulary

**\*Preparation.**

Grading considerations/Rubric

**A+Outstanding, A Very Good, B Good, C Mediocre, D Poor, E Unacceptable**

	90% A+	80% A	70% B	60% C	50% D
<u>Technique/ Tone Quality</u>	Exemplary technique and tone quality	Tone quality is consistent and relates to desired technique	Good skill development but aware of problems. Evident effort	Slow progress, some awareness of sound quality but lack of understanding	Unaware of proper technique. Willful lack of desired sound quality.
<u>Interpersonal Skills Communication Relationship-Building</u>	Well-developed ability in both skill-sets	Becoming consistent in clearly communicating/ Good collaboration and creativity	Working to develop and refine interactions	Becoming aware of personal interactions and effects	Unaware of personal interactions and effects
<u>Musicality/ Phrasing</u>	Dynamics, phrasing and style are maturely expressed.	Thoughtful phrasing and attention to detail and style	Inconsistent attention to dynamics, phrase. Lacks stylistic understanding	Little attention to musical detail	Lack of dynamics or understanding of phrase
<u>Preparation Attitude/</u>	Excellent, consistent preparation	Evidence of Consistent practice, understanding of material	Effort is evident but lacks overall integrity	Inconsistent preparation, late, not set-up little direction	Lacks preparation

**Required information:**

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%.

lib) **Graduate grading scale-** A=80-100, B- 70-79, C- 60-69, F- 00-59

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, opportunity will be given to make up the work missed. 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-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](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.

Revised: September 2023