

Music 9512/9612. Advanced Orchestration.

I. Course Information.

Schedule and Instructor Contact Information

Schedule information to be found on the OWL site

Dr. Troy Ducharme, TC231

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Office Hours: By appointment, in person or virtual. The instructor's schedule will be posted and meetings may be arranged by e-mail.

Course Description and Learning Objectives.

This course provides a forum for building on students' existing knowledge of instrumentation by reviewing and refining familiar concepts and introducing new ones. Information will be gleaned from detailed study and discussion of seminal orchestral works, primarily from the 20th and 21st centuries, along with representative analytical and explanatory writings. Skills in instrumentation as well as score and part preparation will be developed through the completion of preparatory exercises that focus attention on each section of the orchestra in turn. Students will then either (a) revise those exercises for final assessment; or (b) complete a short transcription or original work for orchestra or wind ensemble building on those exercises.

The approach taken is designed to inform composition practice and will be primarily of interest to students in composition, and to prepare those students for completing large ensemble works as part of their composition studies. Students with interests in conducting, education, or performance are also likely to find value in the course.

II. Course Materials:

1. Scores and recordings, accessed online through electronic resources owned by Western's library system or through open access resources, or through the library's physical collection.
2. Access to the OWL Brightspace course site for this course for the sake of communication, accessing materials, and submitting work.
3. Professional-quality music notation software or the professional tools required to make handwritten scores and parts.
4. Easy access to a printer or scanner, or to a tablet with accurate and fine-point stylus for viewing and annotating scores, will be useful.
5. Suggested: Any decent, modern orchestration textbook as reference. The instructor prefers and recommends Samuel Adler's *The Study of Orchestration* but does not require it.

III. Evaluation.

Term Project		75%
Prep Stages (5)	15%	
Final Submission	60%	
Attendance, Preparation and Participation		25%

Evaluation Details:

Term Project. The term project may take one of two forms. For students with less experience in score and part preparation, a collection of 4 exercises will be completed during the term and then revised for submission as a term project. For students with more experience, an original composition or an arrangement (3-5 minutes in length) for Wind Ensemble or Orchestra will be completed over the course of the term. Students choosing this option will submit preparatory work throughout the term as they develop their composition or arrangement. See the table below for an overview of dates for each option: More details will be circulated in a separate document.

Original works and arrangements that are ready in time and of sufficient quality may be read by the Orchestra (April) or by the Wind Ensemble (December or March). The instructor continues to seek opportunities for readings of exercises.

Due Date	Exercises Option	Original Work/Arrangement Option
20 September	Submission of Portfolio, Statement of Goals	
4 October	Percussion Exercise	Excerpt demonstrating percussion use
25 October	Strings Exercise	Excerpt demonstrating string writing ¹
8 November	Winds Exercise	Excerpt demonstrating wind usage
22 November	Brass Exercise	Excerpt demonstrating brass usage
13 December	Revised Scores and Parts	Revised Score and Parts ²

¹Students who wish to complete a work for Wind Ensemble will skip the string writing excerpt, substituting an exercise focusing on the saxophones within the Wind Ensemble.

²Reading sessions by the Wind Ensemble are available 2 December and 31 March. Students who wish to have their work read by the Wind Ensemble in December will need to complete scores and parts by Wednesday, November 20. Information on this accelerated timeline will be found in the Term Project document.

Attendance, Preparation, and Participation. A list of repertoire and readings for each topic will be provided. Students are expected to arrive at class having carefully reviewed these materials and prepared with their own questions and topics for discussion, as well as prepared to answer questions the instructor might pose about the materials.

The class will also attend several large ensemble rehearsals throughout the term, as shown below. Discussion of preparations for and findings from those experiences will also be expected. Additional repertoire will need to be studied in preparation for rehearsal attendance.

Any lapses in attendance will result in significant deductions from this portion of the grade unless discussed with the instructor in advance so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Schedule of Topics

Detailed repertoire and reading lists will follow

Attendance at Large Ensemble Rehearsals will occur during and sometimes outside of course hours. Details TBA

1. Tues 10 Sept Introduction: Knowledge and Skill in Orchestration
2. Tues 17 Sept Percussion: Topic, Structure, Colour and Weight
3. Tues 24 Sept Formal Organization and Instrumental Sections
4. Tues 1 Oct String Techniques and Texture
5. Tues 8 Oct Principles of Layering, Counterpoint, and Balance.
6. Tues 22 Oct Wind Techniques and Textures
7. Tues 29 Oct Instrumentation and Motivic Development
8. Tues 5 Nov Brass Techniques and Textures
9. Tues 12 Nov Focal Pitches and Pivot Tones
10. Tues 19 Nov Acoustic Principles and New Tonalities
11. Tues 26 Nov Freedom and Constraint: Indeterminacy in Large Ensembles.
12. Tues 3 Dec Review and Summary

IV. Notes.

1. Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music, as well as any student that has obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.
2. 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_grad.pdf
3. Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced GBSV (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.
4. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
5. Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program. Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are strongly encouraged to register with Accessible Education Western (AEW), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AEW and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.
6. It is expected that all work in this course will represent the original thoughts and ideas of the student and to represent their development of applicable skills. The use of generative AI as a tool or support for the development of those thoughts, ideas, or skills is, in principle, permitted. Discuss any such usage of AI with the instructor before submitting work.
7. Western recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, at times, be impaired by medical illness or exceptional circumstances. Instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment in determining how or if work missed in such cases will be accommodated. Whether medical documentation is required for work worth less than 10% of the final grade is at the discretion of the instructor (but, if required, this must be indicated on the course outline). If work missed because of medical or non-medical reasons is worth more than 10% of the final grade, documentation is required.

Any documentation, when required, is processed through the Office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) and should be sent directly to this office, not to the instructor.

8. **Religious Accommodation.** When scheduling of course requirements conflicts with religious holidays that require absence from the University or that prohibit or require certain activities on the part of the student, the student will not be penalized for absence because of religious reasons. If a suitable arrangement involving a graduate course cannot be worked out between the student and instructor involved, they should consult the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies).

Further information can be found here:

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