

# Community of Pedagogical Practice

Syllabus, Fall 2024

## Course information

**Course number:** 9586

**Schedule and location:** Available on OWL

**Prerequisites:** Open to all graduate students enrolled in the Faculty of Music, or by permission

## Instructor information

**Name:** Aaron Hodgson **Office:** MB220 **Email:** ahodgson@uwo.ca **Office hours:** by appointment

## Course description

A community of practice is a group that forms around a shared activity, where members collaborate, share and improve together. The primary focus of this course is community of practice as it relates to applied music teaching, especially in one-on-one and small group settings. We will learn about communities of practice by studying examples and academic literature, but we will also learn about them forming our own community of practice among the course participants. To that end, much of the course content will be shaped by participants in the course. Students teaching any instrument or musical genre, as well as composition, are welcome to enrol.

As a community of practice course, it is essential that enrolled students will be actively engaged in teaching throughout the term. Prior experience or proficiency is not necessary, but students will need to teach regularly (ideally weekly) and be willing to document, discuss and share their experiences. Interested/enrolled students without regular teaching obligations may contact the course instructor to help facilitate teaching arrangements. TA work at the university level is not a suitable form of teaching for this course.

## Learning outcomes

Students in the course will:

- Understand ways in which communities of practice form and function
- Lead and participate in a working community of practice
- Reflect on their teaching and apply course concepts to their own teaching practice
- Offer respectful, constructive peer feedback
- Select appropriate readings and topics for discussion
- Lead class discussion on at least one occasion
- Construct a resource library relevant to their individual teaching activities

## Course materials

Readings will be available on OWL. A schedule and bibliography will be distributed for reference.

## Methods of evaluation

Unless otherwise indicated, assignments to be submitted by 9:30am via OWL. Twice during the semester, you may submit a written assignment up to 72 hours late without documentation or prior approval. Otherwise, late materials without documentation or prior approval will be penalized 10%/day.

Full descriptions of all assignments can be found on OWL.

- 1. Participation** **15%**  
Due: preliminary assessment Oct. 28, final assessment Dec. 9  
Brief description: participating in class discussion and activities is an essential component of this course.
- 2. Reflective journal** **30%**  
Due: weekly (3% x 11 weeks, lowest grade discarded)  
Brief description: each week, a short reflective assignment will be posted on OWL. The content and format of these reflections will vary week-to-week.
- 3. Video teaching project** **20%**  
Due: Oct. 7 (video), Oct. 21 (peer feedback), Oct. 28 (final reflection)  
Brief description: students will record a 30-minute video lesson, offer peer feedback in small groups, then write a short reflection.
- 4. Resource project or research paper** **20%**  
Due: Nov. 4 (proposal), Nov. 25 (final submission)  
Brief description (resource project): create an annotated resource library of teaching materials.  
Brief description (research paper): write a 2000-3000 research paper.
- 5. Classroom leadership project** **15%**  
Due: scheduled individually, must be completed by Dec. 2  
Brief description: each student will select a theme, assign readings, deliver a short informational presentation and lead class discussion. Scheduling and content to be determined in consultation with course instructor.

i) Enrollment Restrictions: 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.

ii) Statement on Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [this Web site](#).

iii) Statement on Health and Wellness: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health Support](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

iv) Statement on Accommodation for Medical Illness (adapted from the Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness – Undergraduate Students): The Graduate Program in Music recognizes that a student's ability to fulfill academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by illness or injury. To ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's course grade shall be granted only in cases where there is documentation indicating that the student could not reasonably be expected to meet the academic responsibilities. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the office of the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies), not to the course instructor.

Students with special learning needs or other circumstances are asked to inform the instructor as soon as possible so that necessary accommodations can be considered.

v) Accessible Education Western (AEW): 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.

vi) Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful, useful, and seemingly unavoidable tool. However, it also brings challenges to effective learning and assessment. Throughout the course, we will discuss ways to use AI to help your learning. However, use of generative AI **to generate text within written assignments** is unacceptable except with permission of the course instructor.

vii) Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [this website](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).