

WESTERN UNIVESITY
M9834b/9503b
DMA Vocal Literature: Opera
MB321 Tuesdays 9:30-11:00am
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Purpose: Within the Doctoral Vocal Literature courses, students will delve deeper into various aspects of the literature, more so than the general literature reviews of the undergraduate or master's levels. This course will require students to perform in-depth research into the historical and political backdrops in which their selected operas were composed, to compare their operas and roles against other works composed around the same time, to compare extant scores/editions and recordings, to study and present roles from the repertoire, and to compile their research for in-class presentations.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, participants will:

- familiarize themselves with the epochs of opera history, including major centers of composition, composers and librettists, major works, and historical/political climates
- refine research strategies to the end of presenting individual findings during class
- develop strategies in learning operatic repertoire for performance/presentation

Methods: Each participant will select four operas from varying epochs: Baroque/classical; Classical/Romantic; 20th-Century/Contemporary ; Beyond Standard Repertoire (EDID, non-IGFE)
The rotation will be as follows:

Week #1—Historical backdrop for composer/librettist (who, what, where, when)

Week #2— Contemporaries around your composer and their important works

Week #3— Plot, general musical form analysis of your opera, and famous singers

Week #4— Comparison of scores, recordings, and research sources

Week #5—Performing (possible arias, duets, ensembles)

Grading:

Role 1 Presentations:	20%
Role 2 Presentations:	20%
Role 3 Presentations:	20%
Role 4 Presentations:	20%
Roles selected, Aria List, Resources:	15% (5%/presentation)
Attendance and communication:	5%

i) **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 the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

ii) **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 the following website:

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.

iii) **Enrollment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music.

iv) **Health and Wellness:** 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.

v) **Accessible Education Western:** 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) **Written Work and the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):** The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is not permitted in the written work for this course. 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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

vii) **Accommodation on Medical or Compassionate Grounds:** 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.

viii) **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:** Western accommodates students with disabilities, subject to not compromising the academic integrity of the course or program. Students seeking accommodation must contact Accessible Education (aew@uwo.ca), which provides recommendations based on disability documentation and other considerations. Reasonable academic accommodation is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and the instructor. All participants in the process must fulfil their respective obligations as set out in this Policy and the associated Procedures:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

ix) **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

x) **Scholastic Offences:** The University has a Scholastic Discipline policy that regulates procedures in the event that a graduate student is suspected of a scholastic offence, most commonly plagiarism or cheating, but also violations of research ethics. It is important to note that while the course instructor will likely investigate the offence, possibly meeting with the student to clarify the issue, it is the Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) who, in consultation with the instructor, assesses penalties for scholastic offences in graduate courses. The Scholastic Discipline policy for graduate students may be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has developed a mandatory Academic Integrity Module that is designed to help students understand and abide by principles of academic integrity. Further information about this module can be found at:

https://grad.uwo.ca/life_community/study/index.html

New doctoral students in Music are required to complete the TCPS 2: CORE-2022 (Course on Research Ethics) in their first term. Instructors are encouraged to complete CORE-2022 as well. It is free to access, and the modules can be completed over multiple sessions.

xi) **Grading Guidelines for Graduate Courses:** A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=00-59%

Tentative Calendar:

Fall:

Sept. 10--Syllabus/Presentation Outline
Sept. 17—Personal History, Operas, and
Roles Selected
Sept. 24—Opera 1-1
Oct. 1—Opera 1-2
Oct. 8—Opera 1-3
Oct. 15—FALL BREAK
Oct. 22— Opera 1-4
Oct. 29— Opera 1-5 Singing
Nov. 5—Opera 2-1
Nov. 12—Opera 2-2
Nov. 19—Opera 2-3
Nov. 26—Opera 2-4
Dec. 3—Opera 2-5 Singing

Winter:

Jan. 7—Aria Lists (all roles in your operas)
Jan. 14—Opera 3-1
Jan. 21—Opera 3-2
Jan. 28—Opera 3-3
Feb. 4—Opera 3-4
Feb. 11—Opera 3-5 Singing
Feb. 18—READING WEEK
Feb. 25—Resources Review
Mar. 4—Opera 4-1
Mar. 11—Opera 4-2
Mar. 18—Opera 4-3
Mar. 25—Opera 4-4
Apr. 1—Opera 4-5 Singing