

**WESTERN UNIVERSITY, DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
COMPOSITION 9518**

**Fall-Winter 2025-2026
Dr. Paul Frehner and Dr. Omar Daniel**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFO:

Section 001

Dr. Paul Frehner: [REDACTED] (519) 661-2111 extension 85335, pfrehner@uwo.ca

Office hours: by appointment

Section 002

Dr. Omar Daniel: [REDACTED] (519) 661-2111 extension 85335, odaniel@uwo.ca

Office hours: by appointment

MEETINGS: Private face-to-face composition lessons will be held in either TC-338 or TC-339 at mutually agreed upon times. Students will study with either Dr. Daniel or Dr. Frehner, as determined by the Department of Music Research and Composition. Lessons will be weekly in the Fall and Winter semesters, at mutually agreed upon times. There may occasionally be group meetings, involving students in 9518, 9558 and 9659 which will be held at times TBD. There may occasionally be workshops or talks featuring guest speakers, which students are expected to attend. These would be scheduled in consultation with the guest speakers' timetables.

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

Composition 9518 consists almost entirely of one-on-one consultations focusing on the following: the participants' in-progress and completed compositions; any related in-progress and completed assignments and exercises; and discussions and analyses of selected contemporary music repertory. Students will complete two compositions based on parameters established by the instructor. In addition, there will be other composition work as defined by the student in consultation with the instructor. The student is expected to actively engage in refining the focus and methodology of their compositional approach through the creative process.

Prerequisite: Enrollment in this course is restricted to students have been accepted into the first year of the MMus program in Composition.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop their fluency and skills related to the art of music composition

Through the analysis of pertinent repertoire students will gain an understanding of both certain compositional methodologies as well as a historical context for their own work.

Through experiential opportunities students will gain valuable insight into the process of working towards a premiere performance of their own music with soloists and/or chamber ensembles.

Through the act of working on research-based compositions students will develop the

necessary background, tools and skills to frame a research angle for their eventual work on their Thesis Composition.

Students are expected to participate in the Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative on Tuesday April 7, 2026, 7:30 pm in vKH. This is an interdepartmental collaborative event between MPS and MRC that has been in place for over 20 years. Chamber groups are not finalized until near the end of September. Composer assignments are prioritized by course number (high to low) and grades and other meritorious factors. Decisions are made by a committee of MPS and MRC faculty organizers. Details and Guidelines for this collaboration will be distributed separately.

EVALUATION:

The final grade is comprised of 60% for original compositions (including exercises or other assignments in composition, if any), 30% for analytical and research work, and 10% for participation and attendance. The grade portion for composition will be based on the quality of the student's composition(s) taking into account musicality, originality, and creative thinking, as well as the handling of technical skills. Students must earn a minimum of 42/60 for the composition component of the final grade to pass the course. Students must attend a minimum of 80% of one-on-one consultations to pass the course. There are no examinations.

Composition 1:	15%
Composition 2:	30%
Other Composition Work:	15%
Analytical and Research Work:	30%
Participation and Attendance:	10%

Composition Projects and Deadlines

Composition 1: The parameters of this compositional work will be determined in consultation between the student and instructor.
Due October 2, 2025

Composition 2: A new composition for the annual Student Composer-Chamber Ensemble Collaborative*
Instrumentation TBA
Duration: 7-8 minutes
Deadline: February 12, 2026

Other Composition Work: TBD

The parameters of this compositional work will be determined in consultation between the student and instructor.
Due: April 16, 2026 (one week after classes end)

**See the Annual Student Chamber Music Composition Concert 2025-26 Guidelines for Student Composers for deadlines and more*

details on the procedure for submitting the completed work and other responsibilities for the composer. This document will be handed out in late September.

Analysis and Research and Other Compositional Work

Analysis of specific repertoire and ongoing research will be regularly discussed during private lessons or during group meetings with other graduate students in composition.

Other composition assignments or related academic work, if any: TBA

IMPORTANT DATES

October 8-10 – CONTAQT NEW MUSIC Residency

October 9 – reading of student compositions*

October 10 – Concert in PDT@ 8:00 pm*

Other events TBA

October 21, 2025 – Fall Student Composers Concert, vKH, 7:30 pm

December 2, 2025 – Electronic Music Concert, UG student composers, 7:30 pm, vKH

*Dress Rehearsal for the Student Composer Chamber Music Gala Concert - TBD

*April 7, 2026, 7:30 pm, vKH –Student Composer Chamber Music Gala Concert.

April 9, 2026 – Electroacoustic Student Composer Concert, 6:00 pm PDT

*Attendance is mandatory for the events listed above. Students must also attend the dress rehearsal for their respective compositions, times TBA.

TEXTBOOK:

There is no textbook for this course. Students will be asked as needed to bring score and audio materials for discussion. Supplementary reading and listening, if any, is usually available in the Music Library or through the Library's online services, through Interlibrary Loans, or through other online resources. Please note that COVID-19 restrictions may affect the library's usual services.

Relevant Reference Books:

Adler, Samuel. *The Study of Orchestration*. (3rd ed.) New York: Norton, 2002. ISBN: 039397572X

Dallin, Leon. *Techniques of twentieth century composition; a guide to the materials of modern music*. Dubuque, Iowa : W. C. Brown Co., [1974] Call No.: MT40.D22 1974 (unfortunately out-of-print; one copy is on reserve)

Heussenstamm, George, *The Norton Manual of Music Notation*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1987.

Cambridge Companion to Composition, Young, Toby, editor, 2024, https://ocul-uwo.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01OCUL_UWO/r0c2m8/alma991045956314905163.

Morgan, Robert P., editor. *Twentieth-Century Music: a history of musical style in modern Europe and America*, New York : Norton, 1991 ISBN 0-393-95272-X ML197.M675 1991

Karkoschka, Erhard, *Notation In New Music: A critical Guide to Interpretation and Realisation*, (Translated by Ruth Koenig) New York: Praeger, 1972 MT35 .K185 S33 1972

Stone, Kurt, *Music Notation in the Twentieth Century*, New York, W.W. Norton and Co., 1980.

University Policies for Graduate Courses

Enrollment Restrictions: *Enrollment in this course is restricted to students in the first year of the Master of Music Composition program.*

Grading scale: A= 80-100%, B= 70-79%, C= 60-69%, F= 0-59%

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, as found at
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf

Statement on 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.

Statement on 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.*

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.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use of AI in the compositional process could possibly be permitted. The nature of its use would have to be determined in consultation with the instructor. Permission would be granted on a case-by-case basis.

Other Important Dates, 2025-26

First term

September 2	Graduate Orientation Day (reception @ 3:00 in Grad Club)
September 4	Fall term classes begin
September 30	Observation of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)
October 13	Thanksgiving (official holiday)
November 1-9	Fall Reading Week (no classes)
December 8	Fall term classes end

Second term

January 5	Winter term classes begin
February 14–22	Spring Reading Week (no classes)
February 16	Family Day (official holiday)
April 6	Good Friday (official holiday)
April 9	Winter term classes end