

Western



**Music 9842
DMA Piano Literature Seminar I
Fall 2025**

Course Instructor: Dr. Brett Kingsbury
Office – MB308
E-Mail – bkingsb@uwo.ca
Phone – 416.570.5269

Course Description:

This seminar will focus on works written for the keyboard up until the year 1828 (the death of Schubert). In-depth, focused research and discussion will help participants explore how specific composers used a variety of devices and influences to develop their individual styles. These will include forms and devices from earlier times, from non-keyboard genres (e.g., opera, polyphonic vocal music, compositions for lute), and from folk and popular music. Examination of the ways in which different composers have worked with these materials will help to differentiate the keyboard styles of individual composers and also help to make clear long-term trends in the development of keyboard literature. Throughout the seminar, discussion will continually be tempered by the outlook of the participants as performers.

Course Materials:

Weekly reading and listening lists as well as articles and readings to be discussed will be posted on OWL Brightspace. In occasional instances, materials may also be made available in hard copy through the Music Library.

Course Evaluation:

1) Article presentations (2) – 30% (15%+15%)

Each participant will be expected to give two oral reviews of articles chosen by the instructor. The articles, provided by the instructor, will be relevant to the topics being discussed in class. The reviews should provide a synopsis of the contents of the article under discussion and a critical analysis of those contents. Clarity of style and presentation will also be considered in the assessment of the presentation. The presentation will be followed by a class discussion. Presenters will then prepare a brief (5–6 pages) written version of their presentations, taking into consideration the in-class discussion. Written assignments must be submitted to the instructor within one week of the oral presentation.

2) In-class topic presentation – 30%

Each participant will be required to deliver one 30-50 minute in-class presentation. The topics for the presentations will be selected by the instructor in consultation with each participant and will be related to topics being discussed concurrently in the seminar. This presentation should be considered preparatory to the final paper.

3) Final paper – 40%

The final paper will be a research paper about 15-20 pages in length. The topic for the final paper will be the same as the topic for the final in-class presentation. The paper should be on a topic related to but not bound by the issues discussed in class and approved by the instructor. Participants may wish to think of this paper as, in some sense, preparatory to a degree monograph.

Course Calendar:

The seminar will be held on Thursdays throughout the fall term from Sept. 4 to Dec. 9, 2025. An outline of assignment due dates is included below. This outline is tentative and will be adjusted based on enrollment numbers and other considerations, in consultation with the members of the seminar.

Thursdays

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|---------|-----------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| Sept 4 | | Oct 23 | 2 nd Article Present. |
| Sept 11 | | Oct 30 | |
| Sept 18 | | Nov 6 | --Reading Week-- |
| Sept 25 | First Article presentations | Nov 13 | |
| Oct 2 | | Nov 20 | |
| Oct 9 | | Nov 27 | Topic Presentations |
| Oct 16 | | Dec 4 | Topic Presentations (Cont.) |

Outline of Topics:

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| Sept. 4 | Introduction |
| Sept. 11 | Early Keyboard works (Spain – Cabezon, Venetian Toccata, Fitzwilliam Virginal Book, Sweelinck) |
| Sept. 18 | Frescobaldi, Pasquini, and continuation of previous week's topics |
| Sept. 25 | 18 th Century French Keyboard Suite |
| Oct. 2 | Later French Suites and English Keyboard Suites (Handel and Purcell), Kuhnau |
| Oct. 9 | J.S. Bach |
| Oct. 16 | Pre-classicism (Early 18 th century Italian sonatas, Galant) |
| Oct. 23 | Pre-classicism cont. (C.P.E. Bach, Scarlatti) |
| Oct. 30 | Classicism – Haydn |
| Nov. 6 | Reading Break |
| Nov. 13 | Classicism – Haydn cont. |
| Nov. 20 | Mozart |
| Nov. 27 | Beethoven |
| Dec. 4 | Schubert |

Enrolment Restrictions

Enrolment in this course is restricted to graduate students in Music, as well as any student who has obtained special permission from the course instructor as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

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 the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf. Note especially that plagiarism is a major scholastic offence. Students are expected to write all

assignments in their own words. If you take an idea from another author, you must acknowledge this by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing.

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 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.

Health and Wellness Services

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 (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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of generative AI is strongly discouraged for the purposes of the seminar for two reasons: 1) one of the goals of the seminar is to provide an opportunity for students to practice formulating unique ideas and viewpoints stemming out of close engagement with written sources and with colleagues. Generative AI works directly against this process and the rewarding struggle that it sometimes entails. 2) Generative AI tends to be packed with error the more specific the topic which it addresses, due to the sources it amalgamates. The chance for incorrect and/or vague and useless information to creep into work on topics as specific as those we will address in the seminar is too high to risk the its employment.