

Western



**Music 9843
DMA Piano Literature Seminar
Winter 2026**

Course Instructor: Dr. Brett Kingsbury
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Course Description

This seminar will focus on works written for the piano by composers active between 1800 and the present. In-depth and focused research and discussion will aid the participants in exploring how specific composers used a variety of devices and influences to build up their individual styles. These will include forms and devices from earlier times (e.g. the baroque), forms and stylistic devices from other genres (e.g. opera), and folk and popular music. Examination of the ways in which different composers have worked with these materials will help both to differentiate the piano styles of individual composers and also make clear long-term trends in the development of piano literature. Throughout the seminar, discussion will constantly be tempered by the outlook of the participants as performers.

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 presenter's assessment. 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 presentations - 30%

Each participant will be required to deliver one 30-minute in-class presentations. 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 approximately 15-20pgs in length. The topic for the final paper should 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. Whatever the topic decided on, participants may wish to use this paper as preparatory to their degree monograph.

Course Calendar

The seminar will be held on Thursdays and Fridays throughout the winter term from Jan. 8th to April 9th.

Jan 8		Feb 26 2 nd Article Pres. Begin
Jan 15		Mar 5
Jan 22	Guest: Leslie Kinton	Mar 12
Jan 28	1 st Article Pres. Begin	Mar 19
Feb 5		Mar 26
Feb 12		Apr 2 Final Presentations
Feb 19	Reading Week	Apr 9 Final Presentations

Course Materials

All course materials will be provided by the instructor. There are no anticipated costs for students.

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 errors 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 its employment.