

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

**Fall-Winter 2026-2027
Section 001: Dr. Omar Daniel**

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFO:

Dr. Omar Daniel: TC338, (519)-661-2111 ext. 85369, odaniel@uwo.ca
Office hours: by appointment

MEETINGS: Private face-to-face composition lessons will be held in TC-338 at mutually agreed upon times. Lessons will be weekly in the Fall and Winter semesters and will last approximately 1 hour. There may occasionally be group meetings, involving students in 9518, 9558 and 9659 which will be held at mutually agreed upon times. There may occasionally be online workshops featuring guest speakers, which students are expected to attend. These will 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 at least two compositions based on an idiosyncratic research methodology as defined by the student in consultation with the instructor. Other composition work will be assigned, which may or may not be completed during the timeframe of the course. The student is expected to actively engage in refining the focus and methodology of their compositional approach through the creative process.

Prerequisite: 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.

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 both student and professional performers.

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 April 6, 2027, 7:30 pm in vKH. This is an interdepartmental collaborative event between MPS and MRC that has been in place for over 19 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 Projects and Deadlines

Composition 1:

Option A)

A short composition designed to be included on the fall composer's concert (October 20, 2026). Composers are encouraged to participate in the performance of the composition. Details of duration, instrumentation, etc. will be decided in consultation with the instructor.

Deadline: October 10, 2026

Option B)

a different composition project the parameters of which will be determined through discussion between the instructor and the student.

Deadline: October 10, 2026

Composition 2:

Annual Chamber Groups-Composer Collaborative*(April 6, 2027)
Instrumentation TBA

Duration: 7 minutes

Deadline: February 16, 2027

Composition 3 (final project): TBD

**See the Annual Student Chamber Music Composition Concert 2026-27 Guidelines for Student Composers for more details on the procedure for submitting the completed work and other responsibilities for the composer. This document will be handed out early in 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

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.

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

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 Health and Wellness

Students who are in emotional or mental distress should refer to [Health and Wellness](#) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Statement on Accommodation for Medical Illness (adapted from the Senate policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences–Undergraduates) at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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.

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.

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 or call 519-661-3568.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Use of generative AI is prohibited in this course for any and all assignments and compositions.