

Western University
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Clarinet Literature & Pedagogy (Music 9549y)
2026/27

INSTRUCTOR : Dr. Jana Starling

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Office Hours: By appointment.

COURSE INFORMATION & SYLLABUS

Course Description: Semester 1: Explore the interrelationships of performers, teachers, composers, institutions and makers that shaped clarinet music from inception to the present. Students will connect what they hear and see to historical circumstances through select concertos, sonatas, recital pieces, unaccompanied works and orchestral excerpts.

Semester 2: Prepares one to teach clarinet by covering the fundamentals of clarinet playing as a *teacher* must understand them, together with the acoustics that explain why the instrument behaves as it does, the equipment questions learners may face, the published materials available for teaching, and the skill of diagnosis, from hearing an issue, naming its probable cause, and prescribing a remedy.

Objectives: As a result of the complete course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate the understanding of the clarinet's physical and acoustic development by assembling an historically informed timeline.
- 2) Connect significant clarinets works, from its Baroque beginnings to the present and in numerous musical forms (concerti, sonatas, solos, unaccompanied, and small chamber works) to the created timeline.
- 3) Examine the influence of notable performing artists on the clarinet's acoustic development and repertoire creation.
- 4) Describe a step-by-step method for teaching each fundamental and defend the order of steps, while comparing the approaches of several published pedagogues.
- 5) Explain the clarinet's fundamental acoustics and predict and explain intonation tendencies.
- 6) Diagnose playing problems from what is seen and/or heard and be able to provide remedies and prescribe pedagogical published material.

Time Commitment:

- 1) 1.5-hour weekly class; Thursdays, 1:30pm – 3pm
- 2) 2-3.5 hours outside of class - reading, listening, watching videos, research & assignments

METHODS OF EVALUATION:

FALL TERM: *History & Literature*

20% - **Quizzes** (4x throughout term; each 5%)

60% - **Assignments/Presentations**

15% Clarinet History Timeline (early/mid-Oct)

15% Design a Recital (late Oct/early Nov)

15% Illustrated Presentation (mid/late Nov)

20% Annotated Rep. Catalogue & Curated Listening Program (early Dec)

15% **Midterm Exam** (Dec)

WINTER TERM: *Pedagogy*

10% **Class Discussion Participation**

20% **Quizzes** (3 quizzes throughout term & one *Acoustics Questionnaire*; each 5%)

10% **Masterclass or Clinic Handout** (late Feb)

20% **Diagnostic Library** (early/mid March)

20% **Pedagogical Resource** (late Mar/early Apr)

15% **Term 2 Test** (Apr.)

**Divide the percentage of each assignment to know its full year's grade percentage weight*

**Final Grade in the course will be an average percentage of the two terms.*

Grading Scale:

A 80 – 100%

B 70 – 79%

C 60 – 69%

F 00 – 59%

COURSE MATERIALS:

Recommended purchases:

- 1) Hoeprich, E. (2008). *The clarinet*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
(*Indigo.ca* \$85 hardcover or Kobo eBook \$30; *Google Books* online; Western Music Library)
- 2) Ridenour, Thomas. *The Educator's Guide to the Clarinet*. 2nd edition.
(<https://www.rclarinetproducts.com/> \$49.95 USD (20% discount?) + \$7 S&H)

Attendance/Tardiness: Due to the sequential structure of topics and the participatory nature of the course, attendance is critically important. If the student is unable to attend a class, advance notice must be given to the instructor and the reason for the absence must be an emergency, illness, or school-related commitment. Without reasonable advanced notice or appropriate reason, a grade of zero for what was to be graded in class may be given.

Tardiness in completing projects and handing in assignments will result in the loss of a grade increment of the assignment's final mark for each day it is late.

Use of Generative AI:

The considerations for using generative AI in graduate work are based on five principles, described at https://grad.uwo.ca/about_us/policies_procedures_regulations/ai.html and <https://ai.uwo.ca/using-ai/principles-of-using-ai.html>

If using AI-generated material, the student bears responsibility of the limitations and consequences of this software and must be prepared to defend all aspects of their submitted work. The student and their class work are expected to preserve academic honesty, to show transparency in the search design and applications used to produce the AI-generated material, to protect publish and unpublished intellectual data, and to be aware of unfairness and biases generative AI tools may perpetuate.

It is recommended that students who are considering the use of generative AI speak directly with the professor prior to its use.

ADMINISTRATION DATES:

First Day of Fall Term: Sept. 9, 2026

Non-instructional day: Sept. 30, 2026 (*National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*)

Fall Reading Week: Oct. 10-18, 2026

Last Day of Fall Term Classes: Dec. 9, 2026

First Day of Winter Term Classes: Jan. 4/2027

Spring Reading Week: Feb. 13-21, 2027

Last Day of Winter Term Classes: Apr. 9, 2027

Other Academic Policies and Information

i) **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the Scholastic Offences policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a scholastic offence:

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

Written Work and the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): 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 Western University and Turnitin.com.

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 on the Wellness and Wellbeing website:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.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/Wellness Services:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health Support at Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.htm>

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 (AE), a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both AE 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) **Grading Guidelines for Graduate Courses:** A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=00-59%