

The University of Western Ontario
Don Wright Faculty of Music
M9586 Summer 2026

Contemporary Band Pedagogy: Tradition, Innovation, and Effective Rehearsal Practice

Class Times

Monday, June 29th

- 1-2pm
 - Zoom meeting to discuss course expectations

Thursday, July 2nd

- 1-4pm

Friday, July 3rd

- 1-4pm

Monday, July 6th

- 1-4pm
- 7-9:15pm (Lab Band)

Tuesday, July 7th

- 1-4pm
- 7-9:15pm (Lab Band)

Wednesday, July 8th

- 1-4pm
- 7-9:15pm (Lab Band)

Thursday, July 9th

- 1-4pm
- 7-9:15pm (Lab Band)

Instructor:

Dr. Colleen Richardson

E-mail Address: cricha33@uwo.ca

Office: TC 112

Phone: ext. 86873

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description:

This course explores effective approaches to instrumental band pedagogy that respect the rich traditions of ensemble instruction while incorporating contemporary ideas and emerging teaching practices. Attention is given to conceptual teaching approaches that prioritize musical understanding rather than rote performance. Methods for motivating young musicians and structuring rehearsals that balance musical development with technical skill building will be discussed. Participants will explore strategies that emphasize sound-to-symbol, encouraging listening and musical exploration prior to formal notation. Practical techniques for creating simple arrangements suitable for developing ensembles will also be addressed.

Required Materials:

Your Baton and Primary Instrument.

Readings/Handouts: (One Drive and Brightspace)

The required readings for specific classes are listed on the schedule below.

Please be prepared to answer questions about the readings.

Resources: (One Drive and Brightspace)

The Course Packs

Lab Band Scores

Assigned Readings and Handouts

Evan Feldman's Companion Website

<https://routledgetextbooks.com/textbooks/9781138921405/instrument-pedagogy.php>

Course Reserves:

GIA's *Teaching Music Through Performance* series (Study Guides and Recordings where available).

Jagow, Shelley. *Teaching Instrumental Music: Developing the Complete Band Program*, 2d ed.

Galesville, Maryland: Meredith Music Publications, 2020. (Electronic and hard copy)

Feldman, Evan and Ari Contzius. *Instrumental Music Education: Teaching with the Musical and Practical in Harmony*, 3d ed. New York: Routledge, 2021.

Evaluation:

Forum Postings	20%
Lab Band Rehearsal 1	20%
Lab Band Rehearsal 2	25%
Sound-to-Symbol Lesson	25%
Sound-to-Symbol Handout	10%

Participation and Attendance Policy:

This course will operate as a lab for students to practice and discuss instrumental ensemble techniques. Because class members will function as both teacher/conductor and student/performer, the punctual attendance of every person is expected.

Assignment Deadlines:

- Failure to turn in a scheduled assignment (without documented medical evidence) will result in a mark of zero for that assignment.
- Late assignments will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date.

I. Notes:

i) **Enrollment Restrictions:** Enrollment in this course is restricted to graduate students that have obtained special permission to enroll in this course from the course instructor, as well as the Graduate Chair (or equivalent) from the student's home program.

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

iii) **Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work:** University policy on academic considerations requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. In the event of a student absence or missing work, students are responsible for reading and following the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following link which includes further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline and the relevant university policy.

iv) Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work: Assessment with a Formal Documentation Designation Statement and/or Assessment with Built-in Flexibility

This course has regular forum postings which count towards your final grade. You may miss up to 2 postings without it affecting your grade. If you miss further postings, you will receive a grade of zero for each posting missed.

v) Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. 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:

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

vi) Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): The use of generative AI on any assignments or projects in this course will be treated as a scholastic offense (see previous note on Academic Offences).

vii) Mental Health & Wellness: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

viii) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

ix) Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Advisor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance.

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

x) 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 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 or call 519 661-3568.

xi) Electronic Devices in Classrooms: Electronic devices of any sort are allowed for instructional purposes only. The in-class use of electronic devices (other than for instructor-approved in-class use) is expressly prohibited. Students found guilty of disrupting the class with electronic devices may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

xii) Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

xiii) Examinations & Attendance: Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the

Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

xiv) **Plagiarism Detection Software Usage:** 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, which includes AI writing detection tools. 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Schedule

June 29 (M)

1:00-2:00pm Zoom

Tentative Schedule (readings and assignments are listed):

Topics: Course expectations; Resources (Onedrive or Brightspace)

Other: Forum Posting and all test guidelines are posted (Brightspace)

Resources

“Score Study,” Feldman ch. 12 PDF

“Transposition Study Guide,” Richardson PDF

“The Rehearsal Toolkit,” Feldman Appendix PDF

Evan Feldman’s Companion Website (Instrument and Rehearsal Videos)

<https://routledge-textbooks.com/textbooks/9781138921405/instrument-pedagogy.php>

Conducting Video Tutorials

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLS6B3eWEym8MTurcCXJahKciWW6gTqeEr>

M3841a and M4841a Course Packs

July 2 (H)

1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Sound-to-Symbol; Score study for rehearsal planning;

Introducing a new piece; Are they fit to be conducted; Conducting questions

Score study: *Pageant* - Persichetti

**Always bring the assigned readings and resources to class.*

**Always bring your baton and Instruments to class.*

Read/Post

“An Introduction to Sound-to-Symbol,” Feldman ch. 1 PDF (bracketed sections only).

Resources

“Long-Term vs. Short-Term Rehearsal Strategies,” M3841a CP12a (pp. 28-31)

“Motivation and the Likeability factor,” M4841a CP30 (pp. 128-129)

July 3 (F)
1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Teaching patterns for literacy; Method books and sound-to-symbol; Moving through Houlahan and Tacka's three phases: cognitive, associative, and assimilative; Build the foundation; Misdiagnosing

Score study: *El Camino Real* - Reed

Read/Post

"Tonality, Melody, and Singing," Feldman ch. 3 PDF

"Rehearsals," Feldman ch. 15 PDF (p. 30 Part III up to "The Dunning-Kruger Effect," p. 39)

Resources

"The Rehearsal Hierarchy," M3841a CP31 (pp. 122-127)

July 6 (M)
1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Differentiated instruction; Repetition with a difference; Sequencing musical requests/expectations; Metaphor/story-telling; Harmonic patterns

Score Study: *Amazing Grace* – Ticheli

Read/Post

"Rehearsals," Feldman ch. 15 Part III PDF (p. 39 "Differentiated Instruction" to p. 52)

Resources

"Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation," M4841a CP45 (pp. 195-218)

Jim Karas, "Handout," M4841a CP62 (pp. 275-280)

"Some Ideas About Interpretation," M4841a CP18 (pp. 83-86)

"Stages of Development to Becoming an Expressive Musician," M4841a CP19 (pp. 87-90)

7:00-9:15pm

Lab Band

July 7 (T)
1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Errors as a way to improve; Asking questions; Making connections and experimenting in the warmups/set-ups; Balance paradigms

Score study: *Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo* – Arnold/Paynter

Read/Post

"Teaching Improvisation and Composition," Feldman ch. 4 PDF (pp. 1-7)

"Rehearsals," Feldman ch. 15 PDF (pp. 7-17)

Resources

"Balance Paradigms," M4841a CP60 (pp. 269-272)

"Ideas for Avoiding the Warm-up Rut," M4841a CP40 (pp. 152-155)

7:00-9:15pm

Lab Band

July 8 (W)
1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Contextual creativity; Remediating common performance deficiencies;
Introducing a piece using Sound-to-Symbol; Study Guides

Read/Post

“Teaching Improvisation and Composition,” Feldman ch. 4 PDF (pp. 8–23)

Resources

“Agrell Melody Games,” M4841a CP 41 (pp. 156-159)

“The Creative Band and Orchestra,” M4841a CP 12 (pp. 39-47)

“Colgrass’ Graphic Notation,” M4841a CP 44a (pp. 193-194)

“Most Common Performance Issues,” M4841a CP7 (pp. 35-36)

“A Little French Suite Study Guide” PDF

7:00-9:15pm

Lab Band

July 9 (H)
1:00-4:00pm

Topics: Fundamentals; Instrument Management; Repertoire choices
Other: Melody and Bass Line Test; Handout Due

Resources:

“Repertoire,” Feldman ch. 9 PDF

“Focus on Fundamentals—Where to Start,” M4841a CP53 (pp. 245-248)

“Setting up for Success,” M4841a CP56 (pp. 255-259)

“Rephrygeration Handout,” Reesor PDF

“Programming: Some Considerations for Repertoire Selection,” M3841a CP7 (pp. 15-18)

7:00-9:15pm

Lab Band

Repertoire/Folders

Class Folders

Best in Class Book 1 – Pearson

Mechanical Monsters – Standridge

A Little French Suite – LaPlante

Lab Band Folders

El Camino Real – Reed

Grade 5

Pageant – Persichetti

Grade 5

Prelude, Siciliano and Rondo – Arnold

Grade 4.5

Amazing Grace – Ticheli

Grade 3-4

River of Life – Reineke

Grade 3.5

Sweat Dreams – Grant

Grade 2-3

Songs of Scotland – Williams

Grade 1.5
