

Graduate Percussion Ensemble Course Outline for: 9754

Richard Burrows, Percussion Ensemble Director
rburrows@uwo.ca, MB 145

IMPORTANT DATES: MANDATORY ATTENDANCE-

Thursday November 26, 2026 Dress Rehearsal 6p-10p

Friday November 27, 2026 12:30p and 7:30p Concerts

Thursday March 11, 2027 Dress Rehearsal 6p-10p

Friday March 12, 2027 12:30p and 7:30p Concerts

Concert Dress: All black with a Western purple hue accessory (i.e. belt, scarf, tie, etc)

Course Objectives: Through the preparation and performance of percussion ensemble repertoire, students will further develop their technical proficiency on a broad range of instruments, their musicality in a broad range of styles, their ability to balance and blend in an ensemble, and the teamwork necessary for successful rehearsals and concerts. Traditional and contemporary percussion ensemble literature as well as transcriptions and popular styles will be explored. Part assignments are based on ability, work ethic and experience.

Grading: All performances are mandatory especially given the one person per part nature of the repertoire. Missing a performance without justification will result in a Fail. Each member must be able to be counted on barring illness or other extraordinary circumstances. Preparation of parts, attitude, being set-up on time and helping move gear are all factors in grading. Attendance and preparation for all rehearsals is required.

Enrolment Restrictions: Enrollment in this course is restricted to students in the MMus streams.

Method of Assessment:

***Tone production/technique:** Development of full range of characteristic instrument sounds with ability to perform music of increasing complexity. There is a direct correlation between technique, tone production and tone quality.

***Interpersonal Skills- Communication:** good listener; doesn't criticize, condemn, or complain; tries to see things from the other person's point of view.

Relationship building working creatively with others, communicating clearly, and collaborating with others

***Musical Expression** Dynamics, Phrase, Style, Vocabulary

***Preparation.**

Grading considerations/Rubric

Graduate Grading Scale: A=80-100%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, F=00-59%

	A	B	C	F
<u>Technique/ Tone Quality</u>	Exemplary technique and tone quality	Good skill development but aware of problems. Evident effort	Slow progress, some awareness of sound quality but lack of understanding	Unaware of proper technique. Willful lack of desired sound quality.

<u>Accuracy/ Rhythm</u>	Rhythm, pitch, intonation and tempo are all solidly under control	General control but lacks maturity	Inaccuracies, not confident in basic areas of preparation	Many wrong rhythms/notes Inconsistent tempo
<u>Musicality/ Phrasing</u>	Dynamics, phrasing and style are maturely expressed.	Inconsistent attention to dynamics, phrase. Lacks stylistic understanding	Little attention to musical detail	Lack of dynamics or understanding of phrase
<u>Preparation Attitude/ -</u>	Excellent, consistent preparation	Effort is evident but lacks overall integrity	Inconsistent preparation, late, not set-up little direction	Lacks preparation

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 Web site:

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

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 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

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

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 (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.

Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI): the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is unacceptable in this course.