

**MUSIC 9756  
SALSA BAND**

**DIRECTOR: Dr. Denis Jiron**

Email: [djiron3@uwo.ca](mailto:djiron3@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: MB215 (by appointment only)

Location: MB27

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (Setup Equipment)

1:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m. (Rehearsal)

3:20 p.m. (Breakdown and storage of equipment)

**COURSE PREREQUISITE**

Enrollment in this course is by audition only. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES**

The Salsa Band is a musical performance group that is open to music majors and non-music majors enrolled at the university. Students rehearse and perform standard and contemporary repertoire with special emphasis given to interactive playing, improvisation, and developing appropriate stylistic competency and techniques.

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of style and important historical aspects of the music performed.
2. Apply proper style and interpretation into performance practice.
3. Recognize and use appropriate rhythmic and melodic patterns and articulations for a given style.
4. Combine musical and communicative skills acquired to formulate unique interpretations of standard repertoire

**COURSE MATERIALS**

There are no required textbooks for this course. All performers should have access to a tuner and a metronome. Players are expected to bring their instrument, sheet music, music stand, all necessary mutes/equipment, and a pencil to every rehearsal. The use of tablets, instead of paper sheet music, is optional and up to the discretion of each player. The use of apps or software for creating play-along recordings (e.g., iRealb Pro, Band in a Box) and transcription aids (e.g., Amazing Slow Downer, Capo) is strongly recommended.

Keyboard, keyboard amp, bass amp, drum set, Afro-Cuban percussion, vocal PA, and microphones will be provided for rehearsals and performances.

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**All band members are REQUIRED** to collect, setup/breakdown, and return school gear from/to MB27 for performances. *Failure to participate will negatively impact student marks.*

For rehearsals, **all band members are strongly encouraged** to contribute to setting up and breaking down, and storing school gear.

*Set up 12:30pm - 1:30  
Rehearsal 1:30 – 3:20.  
Breakdown time begins at 3:20*

**Recommended reading:**

Salsa Guidebook for Piano and Ensemble by Rebeca Mauleon, ISBN-10: 0961470194  
The Essence of Afro-Cuban Percussion by Ed Uribe, ISBN-10: 1576236196

**COURSE POLICIES**

In order to reach our peak performance, a number of activities must take place.

1. Weekly sectionals are required. Students are responsible for coordinating sectional rehearsals with their section colleagues. It is recommended that you find a time that is recurring.
2. Individual parts must be learned outside of the ensemble rehearsal times.
3. Each member of the ensemble will be responsible for sheet music, all peripherals (mutes, reeds, cords, etc.), and a pencil. In addition, students' preparedness and ability to execute their music along with their rehearsal etiquette will factor into their mark.
4. Recordings related to the repertoire will be placed on the course OWL page, and ensemble members are expected to study these recordings thoroughly.

**PERFORMANCE DRESS CODE**

To be determined, at discretion of Director

**CONCERT SCHEDULE 2026-2027**

???Nov. 2-5 – EDIDA Event at UCC ?????? TDB

Dec, 8, 2026, 8pm. The Spoke. Fall semester concert. Load-in/Soundcheck: 11:30am

???March ???, 2027, 7:pm. London Music Hall. Meals on Wheels fundraiser. Load-in/Soundcheck: 4pm

April 3, 2027, 8pm – PDT – Fall semester concert, Load-in/soundcheck: 6pm

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**Additional on or off-campus performances may be added.** Students will not be penalized if they cannot attend additional performances not on this course outline. However, once student has agreed to taking part in an additional performance it will be factored into their course grade.

Please note that dates and events are subject to change. Ensemble members will be notified well in advance of any changes to the schedule.

## **EVALUATION**

A = 80 – 100%

B = 70 – 79%

C = 60 – 69%

F = 0 – 59%

Grades will be determined on the following bases:

- (a) Rehearsal preparation, Performances, Gear setup/breakdown/storage, assignments – 80%
- (b) Participation – 20%

Preparation for rehearsals means each individual is responsibly preparing their part for correct execution. If the director warns an individual during rehearsal about preparedness, this means that the individual has not prepared the music in a timely manner. Repeated warnings will reduce the grade due to the lack of preparation.

### Characteristics of an A

- Always has music prepared for rehearsal
- Always punctual for rehearsals and performances
- Music performed in concert with no or very few errors
- Superior rehearsal attitude and decorum; is alert in rehearsal
- Always contributes to school gear setup/breakdown

### Characteristics of a B

- Music prepared for rehearsal 80-90% of the time
- Sometimes late for rehearsal
- Music performed in concert with minor, noticeable errors
- Good rehearsal attitude and decorum; sometimes not paying attention
- Usually contributes to school gear setup/breakdown

### Characteristics of a C

- Music prepared for rehearsal 70-80% of the time
- Significant number of tardies (2-5)
- Music is prepared by concert, but not before
- Music performed in concert with numerous minor errors and missed notes
- Contributes nothing more to rehearsal than playing notes
- Average student rehearsal decorum – occasional talking/off-task in rehearsal
- Sometimes contributes to school gear setup/breakdown

### Characteristics of a D

- Music not prepared by concert with many (mostly minor) errors
- Significantly number of tardies (5-10)

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- Music mostly unprepared for rehearsal
- Music at concert performed with some major errors and many minor errors throughout
- Exhibits occasional negative attitude resulting in conference with Director; frequently off-task
- Not present for equipment set-up/breakdown

### **Characteristics of an F**

- Usually unprepared for rehearsal
- Always tardy to rehearsal
- Music at concert performed with major errors and/or omissions throughout
- Not present for equipment set-up/breakdown

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_offences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf)

## **Health/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 (AE)**

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.

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**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](mailto:support@uwo.ca)

**Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

The use of generative AI is not allowed for this course.