Course outline Classical Guitar Studio

Classes and attendance
All students receive 12 lessons in each term at a fixed time each week. Performance students in year 3 and 4 receive an additional 6 lessons per term. Presence at classes is mandatory and absences will affect the studio mark. As outlined in the MPS hand book students do not receive make up classes for classes other than those missed by the teacher. Please send a group email to your fellow guitar students and post your time as available if you are unable to come due to illness: someone else could be helped by the available time and may do the same for you! In case of serious illness and prolonged absence, please refer to the on line MPS hand book.

At the end of each term a studio mark is awarded reflecting progress in jury repertoire, technique, attendance, productivity and participation in the studio recital. The end of year mark is an average of both term marks and the jury mark as outlined in the student handbook (www.music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/index.html)

Concert attendance cards
All students in MPS are required to attend a minimum amount of concerts during the academic year. You will receive an attendance card that needs signing by a faculty member present at the concert attended. At the end of the school year you hand in your cards with signatures. Please consult the concert calendar posted on the Faculty website to help you choose which concerts fit your likes and schedule, the Friday 12:30 concerts being an excellent start. Anything you yourself participate in does not count for the card, but attending fellow student recitals does. **Not having attended the required number of attended concerts will result in a deduction of 5 points of the performance class mark (which is marked out of 10)**

Performance classes for the combined Guitar Studios
The total number of Performance Classes is calculated based on the number of students in the guitar studios. This year your performance class will be on most Fridays from 5-6 in MB341. Dates TBA Attendance is mandatory for all students except those in 1925, 2925 and courses ending in y. Students in these courses are welcome and strongly encouraged to attend, but no mark will be given and attendance will not affect the studio mark.

Each student required to attend must be prepared to play in each of the performance classes.

Performance classes will focus on presenting complete pieces, allowing students to gain awareness of the preparation required to get a piece ready for public performance, and providing an opportunity for self-assessment and reflection afterwards in a collegial atmosphere.

We aim to have an ensemble component to the performance classes and we will discuss this with you once classes start. Ensemble playing does mean the following: You will bring to ensemble class your instrument, your footstool and your folding stand (there are no extra stands in the room), a pencil and all music handed out to you, in a binder. Loose sheets are not acceptable! You arrive before, and will be tuned (a 440) and in place to play by 5, no later. We expect you respect your colleagues’ time spent on preparation by being on time and knowing your parts to the guidelines given to you in the class. The aim of the class is to give insight in the professional working atmosphere of ensembles, how compositions can come together in given time, promote group effort and skill building and of course having fun doing so.

At the end of Term 2 a Performance (including ensemble) Class mark out of 10 is awarded reflecting progress in overall presentation (preparation, expression, readiness to play, tone projection, memorization) as well as and participation/attendance in both components of the class.
Studio Recitals

Students required to be in Performance Classes are also required to perform in the studio’s recital(s). Those students who are not required to, can be invited to play provided they attend the performance classes, recital time is available and their playing is performance ready. Any student may be barred from playing should preparation be deemed insufficient. This is to guarantee the overall quality of the program as it will be open to the public and reflects the guitar studio as well as the Faculty of Music. This year’s recitals will be in October and February.

Masterclass by visiting artist
October 26 Johannes Moller (Sweden/Netherlands)
We are very excited to have been able to book Johannes Moller for a concert (Friday 12:30) and a masterclass the same afternoon 2-5. Please visit his website and listen to his recordings to prepare for this exciting event: johannesmoller.com
Your attendance is mandatory: if you have a conflict for the Oct 26 afternoon please write to the professor involved at least a week before the date and cc your studio teacher.

Course repertoire and technique

All Jury Requirements are posted on-line in the MPS handbook: http://music.uwo.ca/departments/music-performance/handbook/jury-requirements.html Please book mark, download or print what is pertinent to your year. You are sent all this info early so you can do the printing while still at home. Each student must familiarize him/herself with this document AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. Course repertoire is decided on with the teacher to avoid inappropriate material and to aid in the student’s overall development creating a manageable, balanced and interesting jury program.

All students will be tested regularly on the progress of technical development. Short scale tests will be played in the lesson at the end of Sept, Oct and Nov for 1st term as well as Jan, Feb and March for 2nd term.

As a communication tool a self-evaluation sheet will be provided on which first year students record their personal goals, expectations and progress. You must have this sheet with you at each lesson in your binder with your music and your jury requirements.

Additional Course Material
The Music Faculty has a very well stocked CD library. As part of your course work you will be required to take out and listen to a variety of music, mostly to aid your immersion into the classical guitar world and to help you gain insight in period styling, phrasing, tone and context for the material you may be playing. A 50-CD list with call numbers will be provided to first and second year students: carry it with you in your binder or download it on your phone and bookmark the music library search page!

When obtaining specific scores from the library you must photocopy them right away if they are to be used in the lesson: Annotations are not to be made in the library books. To that end carry your library card and change for the photocopier.

Each student must obtain the following items before classes start:
Beyond, obviously, a classical guitar you should own
Folding Music Stand
Foot stool (or equivalent)
Right arm sleeve, if you wear short sleeves: a cut-off sock will do fine!
Professional nail file (metal or glass, NO emery boards: too coarse), 600 wet/dry sand paper
Nail glue (we prefer Nailene, no super glue) fake nails and acrylic powder (Available as a kit in any well stocked pharmacy: this is a long-term investment!)
Capo, suitable for a classical guitar
Binder/folder in which to keep music, CD list, self-evaluation sheets and course requirements
Metronome: download a good one
Tuner or tuning fork
Spare set of strings
Pencils with erasers

Apart from the music stand you will need to have all of it with you in every class.

Formal evening wear/dress is required for class recitals. As a guide: if you can wear it for choir performances you can for the recitals! If you are not in choir: think black suit with white shirt or dress pants and a dressy shirt (no open collars. Traditionally women wear more colour than men for an evening performance. Semi-formal for juries is fine.

Studio Protocol

We have new digs this year: MB 459. We hope you are as excited about this as we are! We welcome ideas for decorating! The window in the room does not open. Wilma is allergic to scented products: do not come in smelling like anything but your natural self. See below.

Email communication

We request you read your email regularly and respond promptly when asked to do so, especially at the beginning of September as Wilma’s classes start on the very first day of school. Once the flurry of scheduling lesson times start make sure you check for new email regularly.

Please leave your studio teacher the email address you will be using during the school year if it has changed from last year’s, or, if you are a new student, it is different from what we have had up until now. We will consult by email with you on what is the best time for your lesson.

Wilma will schedule lessons on Thursdays (9:30-4:30 and Fridays (9:30-5). Classes start on September 6/7.

Bob will teach Tuesday evening starting Sept 11.
We will email the finalized studio schedule, including info on performance class dates before classes start.

For lessons arrive in time with polished nails, tuned and having done some warm up.
Knock on the door if it is your lesson time.

Health stuff:

Western University aims to provide a scent free environment to teachers and students alike as per poster on the studio door.
Due to a strong sensitivity to perfumes/ sprays/ laundry softeners etc. I must ask you to refrain from using these products before coming to the studio and performance/ensemble classes. If I happen to react badly to something you will bring in on you, I will end the lesson and send you out. Any reaction will be immediately apparent. Don’t take it personal, but let’s find out what it was, so we can avoid having the same situation and the loss of lesson time.
My lungs thanks for your cooperation and remembering that I still need to be in the same room long after your lesson is over. Any Axe and Old Spice products seem to be particularly bad for me, but Tide and Downy and Ivory products are also on the list. Please switch to unscented products, not just for my sake.
**Last, but definitely not least:**
As faculty, we are aware that especially in first and second year students can get overwhelmed in response to deadlines, the daily demands of practicing combined with academic work, loneliness and perhaps situations due to new living conditions. On top of this sometimes students enter this new study stage with a previously diagnosed physical or mental condition, or one could develop during the year. Should you find yourself in that position, you might consider talking to Diane Mills in the Music Office or visit the health and wellness web page for more information on resources on campus: [http://uwo.ca/health/](http://uwo.ca/health/). We strongly believe in a climate of openness and acceptance and see that culture confirmed in our group classes. Students often find support through peers and peer guides in the music faculty.

However, we are not meant to ask directly about any preexisting or developing conditions, even if we see signs or sense trouble. We will not be routinely informed on special arrangements/ allowances, especially since the studio lesson is not an academic course. On the other hand, we also appreciate the fact that if something is bothering a student, he or she is not going to talk about that in a 200-head count lecture. We can’t go much beyond the question “So, how are you doing?” unless you take the lead. In the same way, we cannot discuss your progress/situation with parents unless we have your specific permission to do so. As an adult, you are now in a self-advocacy situation. Please take the initiative and talk to your studio teacher if you need to, so we can help set you on a path to some relief.

We look forward to working with you this year!