COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The York Guitar Ensemble meets weekly in rehearsal and performs a wide variety of compositions, transcriptions, and arrangements. While focusing on the Western classical repertoire, it may include other styles as well. Prerequisite: Open to qualified non-majors/minors by permission. (The ability to read and perform intermediate level classical guitar repertoire is essential.)

INSTRUCTOR(S)

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Section / Format / Term</th>
<th>Contact Email</th>
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<td>Katz, Brian</td>
<td>Sec. A / STDO / Y</td>
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SPECIAL FEATURES

MUSI 1028G-4028G 3.0: York Classical Guitar Ensemble

Term: F/W 2019-20

Course Instructor: Brian Katz
bkatz@yorku.ca
Office: ACE 347, by appt.

1. Special Features

This course is open to majors and non-majors (with permission). There is no prerequisite for the 1000 level (granted you have experience playing the classical guitar). 2000 level requires completion of the 1000 level of the same course, 3000 the completion of 2000, and 4000 level the completion of 3000. Exceptions can be made at the discretion of the course instructor. N.B. You may take one level in a given term.

This course emphasizes practical performance instruction in classical guitar ensemble. The course will centre on the classical guitar tradition, with the music ranging from the Renaissance to the present time. Some contemporary non-classical music will be incorporated. The classical guitar tradition embraces a wide variety of styles ranging from works with strong folk elements to twelve-tone to those that incorporate jazz/world music flavours. As is common to the tradition of the guitar ensemble, a considerable amount of the repertoire will be transcriptions involving other instrumentation. Students will be encouraged to understand the transcription process, and students, in varying degrees depending on experience and level, will be expected to assist in/create transcriptions/compositions for the ensemble.

Expanding one’s overall musical knowledge and musicianship via a wide variety of repertoire is key to this course of study; guitarists are often not accustomed to playing ensemble music in the way that, for example,
violinists, are; in this respect, this course will aid to open pathways to new musical sounds and experiences.

Memorizing the repertoire (especially that which we will perform) will be strongly encouraged, though not expected. This is to both aid your musicianship and musical memory, and keep your ear “out front” in performance.

2. **Topics and Concepts**

While the emphasis will be on learning a wide range of music either written or adapted for classical guitar ensemble (such as works by Sor, Milan, Mozart, Duarte, Praetorius, Brindle, Bach, Beethoven, Giuliani, Sparks, Brouwer, Zenamon…), group warm-ups such as scales, arpeggios and specific technical exercises appropriate to the repertoire at hand will be integrated into the course.

3. **Learning Outcomes with Examples**

Playing technically well, and being able to musically blend in, are two of the main course objectives; becoming a good sight reader and, in general, improving one’s reading ability are also prime course objectives.

By the completion of the course, students will be able to play, with maturity, a range of works in the classical guitar (and some other) traditions. There will be an end of year performance at York and, in addition, every effort will be made to have the ensemble perform off campus.

4. **Graded Assessment**

In general, your growth will be monitored, with regular feedback given; large parts of the grade are based on your skill sets, and how you have prepared, participated, and developed throughout the year—viewed in the context of what level the instructor feels you should have been able to realistically achieve. A certain standard is expected, and if the instructor feels you are not meeting this standard, and possibly cannot, he will notify you.

**Preparedness**: 30% (ongoing evaluation), 15% each semester. Learning and regularly practising and moving towards memorization of the repertoire is encouraged. The instructor will monitor this and provide personal feedback. Knowing well, have memorized, and demonstrating (in several octaves) the main scales belonging to this tradition (major, all minor forms) is expected. Basic harmonization skills will be encouraged (to be discussed).

**Individual Performance Tests**: 30% There will be two tests (one each semester, 15% each, dates TBA) where you will be expected to play—at the instructor’s request—a variety of excerpts from the material we’ve been learning. The excerpts will not necessarily begin at the beginning of a piece (or even section) so, similar to rehearsing alone or with a group, you must be prepared to display how you can read, play, musically and efficiently from anywhere in the score. There will also be a few very specific passages requested (that you can totally prepare in advance) at the test.

**Performance Ability**: 20% (ongoing evaluation) (10% each semester)

This is a performance course; there are no written essays. Performance evaluations are based on your individual development as displayed in class over the term—technique, rhythmic and melodic skills, ensemble sensibilities, and command of prescribed/improvised parts. Everyone is expected to help move instruments for any on campus performances.

**Participation**: 10% (ongoing evaluation, 5% each semester)

**Attendance**: 10% ( - 2% per missed class except for Illness; doctor’s note required).
5. Additional Information
Since this is a practical, hands on, course, it is essential that you attend regularly. You are part of an ensemble, and your piers depend on you.

Music will be handed out and you are expected to keep it in a binder and bring it weekly; this is your responsibility. It is expected that students engage themselves with the styles they are studying by doing listening (and reading) outside of class. (see next pages for very important information)

6. Additional Information
* Important Dates:

Last date to drop a full year (Y) course without receiving a grade: February 3, 2020

* Academic Policies / Information

The Senate Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee (ASCP) provides a Student Information Sheet that includes:
York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures / Academic Integrity Web site
• Access/Disability
• Ethics Review Process for Research Involving Human Participants
• Religious Observance Accommodation
• Student Code of Conduct

http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/CourseInformationForStudentsAugust20121.pdf

Additional information:
• Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities
• Alternate Exam and Test Scheduling
• Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy
The Senate Grading Scheme and Feedback Policy stipulates that (a) the grading scheme (i.e. kinds and weights of assignments, essays, exams, etc.) be announced, and be available in writing, within the first two weeks of class, and that, (b) under normal circumstances, graded feedback worth at least 15% of the final grade for Fall, Winter or Summer Term, and 30% for ‘full year’ courses offered in the Fall/Winter Term be received by students in all courses prior to the final withdrawal date from a course without receiving a grade.

• Important University Sessional Dates (you will find classes and exams start/end dates, reading/co-curricular week, add/drop deadlines, holidays, University closings and more.
http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/index.htm

• Manage my Academic record
http://myacademicrecord.students.yorku.ca/

• "20% Rule"
No examinations or tests collectively worth more than 20% of the final grade in a course will be given during the final 14 calendar days of classes in a term. The exceptions to the rule are classes which regularly meet Friday evenings or on Saturday and/or Sunday at any time, and courses offered in the compressed summer terms.
Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles.

Many courses utilize Moodle, York University’s course website system. If your course is using Moodle, click here to access it.