

PMU 299Y Applied Lesson Syllabus

Engineering Music Minor

Fall 2025-Winter 2026

Program Coordinator and TA Supervisor:

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Attendance Policy:

- 100% attendance at weekly applied lessons is mandatory
- Lessons will be 60 minutes in length; please schedule lessons with enough travel time so that all lessons start on time.

Course Structure:

Fall Term:

- 12 weekly private 1 hour applied lessons
- In addition, attendance at 4 concerts (live preferable; live-streamed acceptable)
- 1 written concert review – approximately 500 words DUE to private instructor by Dec. 1st (Pass/Fail)
- 1 2-hour group masterclass performance with all Music Engineering Applied students, instructors, and supervising faculty member

Winter Term:

- 12 weekly private 1 hour applied lessons
- In addition, attendance at 4 concerts (live preferable; live-streamed acceptable)
- 1 written concert review – approximately 500 words DUE to private instructor by April 1st (Pass/Fail)
- 1 2-hour group masterclass performance with all Music Engineering Applied students, instructors, and supervising faculty member
- Engineering Performance Showcase Recital (typically 2 hours): Date to be determined
- 15-minute performance jury exam at the end of Winter Term (typically April during examination period). Date and time to be determined.

Repertoire and Jury Expectations:

Approximately 20 minutes of repertoire representing at least 3 contrasting styles will be prepared throughout the year. The level of repertoire will vary, and choices based on past performance experience of individual students. Repertoire will be left to the discretion of the instructor (in consultation with supervisor **if instructor is a DMA TA**) and student. This repertoire list will be presented at the final jury, and approximately 10 minutes of music will be selected from this list. Memorization is not required but encouraged where possible.

For the **Engineering Showcase Concert** (April), repertoire (maximum of 15 minutes) will be chosen by the student and instructor for performance. It is recommended (but not required) that these selections be memorized.

Grading Rubric:

60% of final grade will be assigned by instructor for applied lessons: (Fall term grade for 12 lessons and Winter term grade for 12 lessons).

- On time and regular attendance
- Preparation for lessons and masterclasses
- Quality and amount of repertoire learned
- Progress and improvement
- See below – Faculty of Music Guidelines for Term Work Evaluation for Applied Lessons. Please note that applied lesson grades in the 80-84% range are considered **excellent**; grades above 90% are rare and reserved for professional level playing.

20% of final grade – concert attendance and 2 written reflective reports:

- Attendance at a minimum of 8 concerts throughout the year (in person preferred; online live streamed acceptable).
- 2 written concert reflections approximately 500 words each (1 due Dec. 1st; 1 due April 1st). At least one of the papers should focus on a concert of a musical style, genre or culture that is new to you. The content of these papers can be flexible. We are interested in reading about your individual thoughts and reflections about the music you hear. What did you learn? What was memorable? What surprised you? What did you enjoy or not enjoy? How

might what you heard change the way you approach your own performance and practice?

20% of final grade – Final Jury performance exam

- Jury will be adjudicated by the primary instructor and one other adjudicator

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop practice strategies for learning and preparing musical compositions for lessons, rehearsals and performances.
- Perform musical compositions with appropriate technical efficiency and ease.
- Perform compositions with attention to detail and a high level of artistic polish (character, dynamics, phrasing, articulation, balance, voicing, tone quality, intonation, stylistic understanding etc.).
- As musicians, learn to comment constructively and knowledgeably about colleagues' performances in masterclasses.

GRADING SCALE:

As determined by the University of Toronto

Outstanding	90 - 100%	A+	4.0
Excellent	85 - 89%	A	4.0
	80 - 84%	A-	3.7
Good	77 - 79%	B+	3.3
	73 - 76%	B	3.0
	70 - 72%	B-	2.7
Adequate	67 - 69%	C+	2.3
	64 - 66%	C	2.0
	60 - 62%	C-	1.7
Marginal	57 - 59%	D+	1.3
	53 - 56%	D	1.0
	51 - 52%	D-	0.7
Inadequate	0 - 49%	F	0.0

Guidelines for Term Work Evaluation in Applied Music

A- to A+	90 - 100%	Excellent	Exceptional performance at a near-professional level; technical mastery, musical maturity and expressiveness. Outstanding progress in lessons. Assigned work completed and thoroughly mastered.
	85- 89%		Outstanding performance; considerable polish, depth of understanding with technical prowess, superior performance values such as tone, intonation, rhythmic integrity and voicing, as applicable. Significant progress shown in lessons. Assigned work completed at a very high standard.
	80- 84%		Very strong musically and technically, demonstrating excellent performance values. Consistent progress throughout the year, and assigned work completed very well.
B- to B+	77- 79%	Good	Evidence of good preparation with technical and musical competence; some imaginative understanding of the repertoire, but lacking the consistent polish of near professional standard. Generally good progress throughout the year. Assigned work undertaken with generally good results.

	73- 76%		A good performance overall with technical and musical competence; some imaginative understanding of the repertoire, but with some technical rough- ness and inconsistency. Generally good progress throughout the year.
	70- 72%		Reasonable standard of performance with some evidence of a good grasp of the musical and technical challenges but with technical and musical lapses. Good progress overall in lessons but lacking in consistent improvement. Weekly assignments addressed fairly well.
C- to C+	67- 69%	Adequate (Undergrad) Failure (Graduate Students)	Although this is an adequate standard of performance, there are inherent technical issues which mar the presentation and limited musical expressive- ness and communication. The student does not work consistently week to week, not always achieving a good standard on assigned work. The improvement is very inconsistent.
	63- 66%		Adequate but inconsistent performance lacking technical or tonal polish and without a deeper grasp of the music. Some improvement but no steady growth in performance standard. Assigned work often not completed satisfactorily.
	60- 62%		This is a barely adequate performance, with some sign of musical expression but marred by poor technique. There is only a small amount of improvement in the performance standard. Assigned work

			only somewhat completed.
D- to D+	57- 59%	Marginal (Undergrad) Failure (Graduate Students)	A very weak performance with marginal musical expressiveness and limited technique. Marginal improvement in the standard of performance. Very little progress from lesson to lesson.
	53- 56%		Extremely weak standard of performance with only minimal musical expression and technique. Only marginal improvement shown.
	50- 52%		This is a bare pass with a marginal performance standard. There is almost no improvement in the performance standard and no indication of a serious effort.
F	0 - 49%	Inadequate	Little or no evidence of even superficial musical or technical grasp of the repertoire. No discernible effort made by the student to complete assigned tasks and no progress shown.