

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Winter Semester 2022
MUSC*2410-01



APPLIED COMPOSITION AND IMPROVISATION I

INSTRUCTOR: Cam McKittrick
TIME: Tuesday, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
LOCATION: ALEX 071
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 11am-noon. or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

MUSC*2410 F [0.50]

This course offers class and individual instruction in the technical and aesthetic aspects of music composition and improvisation.

Prerequisite(s): MUSC*2180

Restriction(s): Registration in a Music Program (Honours Major or Minor, General).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Students will have the opportunity to apply skills learned in the core of the music program to creative musical activity, focused on improvising on their own instrument(s) with others, and the writing of scores and/or the production of electroacoustic studio works. Students will work on improvisational and compositional activities appropriate to their level of experience and creative goals. Assignments will be completed and presented in a tri-weekly cycle: Week One—introduction to new concepts; Week Two—improvisation; Week Three—composition, including class/guest performance of scores. Concepts to be explored may include: drones and modes, melodic structures, rhythmic structures, tonal harmonic organization. Students will explore a variety of styles within the broad topics being introduced. Listening and research (e.g., techniques, score study, notation, instrumentation) are core elements of the course, and students will need to devote substantial time to these. Students will be expected to gain some ability to articulate formal design and musical/cultural contexts as these apply to their creative work. Group performance, both improvisational and score-based, is critical to the goals of the course, so regular attendance is essential.

Concepts introduced in this semester will be broadened and added to in Applied Composition and Improvisation II (MUSC*2420) in Winter semester. Students wishing to pursue Applied Composition and Improvisation further may go on to MUSC*3410 and MUSC*3420, where there will be more focus on individual interests and projects. It is also possible to go on to present a composition/improvisation recital in MUSC*4460 and MUSC*4470.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- ability to create work independently
- awareness of contemporary music in a variety of styles
- understanding of musical forms
- familiarity with issues of music notation and instrumentation
- familiarity with improvisation concepts and techniques

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Creative Improvisation Work (presented tri-weekly):	30%
Creative Composition Work (presented tri-weekly):.....	30%
Listening Logs (due: 1 March, 07 April):.....	15%
Research Assignments (tri-weekly):	15%
Participation (discussion, performances):	10%

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the fortieth class day (**Friday, 3 November 2017**); two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of the add period in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](#) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance, and not later than the 40th Class Day.

More information: www.uoguelph.ca/sas

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the

responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

[The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.