



Contemporary Music 10

Winter Semester 2026

Mr. Austrom

Room 114 & 115

Period 1

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This course will provide an opportunity for students to work with music and musical instruments (including the human voice) in ways that deepen understanding of the principles, practices, terminologies, and structures using a vast range of musical tools and technologies. Students taking this course will receive valuable hands-on experience and constructive critical feedback in important areas of musical analysis, composition (pre-structured work as well as more open and improvisational approaches), performance, and production.

Big Ideas

- Individual and collective expression is rooted in history, culture, and community
- Growth as a musician requires perseverance, resilience, and reflection.
- Music is a process that relies on the interplay of the senses.
- Aesthetic experiences have the power to effect change
- Music offers unique ways of exploring our identity and sense of belonging.

Core Competencies

By reflecting on the work around them and the new processes they discover, they will:

- enhance their creative and critical thinking abilities
- become increasingly more self-aware and socially responsible
- develop communication skills through analysis and discussion of music
- recognize that music appreciation can impact personal growth
- be introduced to new aspects of the English language through the learning of music terminology
- develop problem-solving/analysis skills through the study of harmonic and rhythmic principles used in all forms of music.

Students will be given opportunities to use both self and peer assessment tools (self-reflection questionnaires that address both core and curricular competencies, and group discussions of students work) and to guide inquiries into local and international First Nations' forms of artistic tradition/culture (incorporating First Nations learning principles into art processes/research/reflection).

Curricular Competencies

- Explore and create** music through performance, creativity, and personal expression across styles and contexts.
- Reason and reflect** on musical techniques, styles, roles, and experiences to inform performance, collaboration, and personal growth.
- Communicate and document** musical ideas and experiences using appropriate language, personal voice, and respectful collaboration.
- Connect and expand** musical learning by demonstrating responsibility and making local and global connections.

Course Content

Unit 1	Rhythm, Groove & Musical Foundations
Unit 2	Musical Conversation; Melody, Harmony, & Music History
Unit 3	Modern Music, Technology & Production
Unit 4	Music, Identity & Global Voices
Unit 5	Performance, Exhibition & Reflection

Mark Distribution

30% - Portfolio - A final musical performance or original production, biography, journal/logs

30% - Unit Performances, Projects & Tests

25% - Vocab and Theory Quizzes

15% - Daily Participation, Practice Log, Music Journal

Course Materials

Notebook and Pencil

Musical Instrument of choice (If applicable)

Computer or tablet

Music Editing Software (DAW) of your choice ex. Fruit Loops, Garage Band/Logic(mac), Cakewalk by Bandlabs, Waveform, Ableton.

Class Rules and Expectations

1. Be on time for class. Attendance and participation will be graded.
2. Have an open mind and a positive attitude.
3. Bring your journal or notebook every day.
4. Phones and computers will only be permitted at the teacher's discretion. While they are useful practice tools; if they are used for anything else or become a distraction, they will be taken away for the remainder of class.
5. Participation is essential. Stay engaged in classroom activities and lessons. Use your practice time wisely.
6. Take care of the space and all musical instruments and equipment! (cables, sheet music, microphones, etc.). Doing so shows you care about your work and your environment.
7. BE RESPECTFUL - no one is perfect, making mistakes while learning is a part of growth. You will be graded based on musical growth.
8. The study of music is a rewarding lifelong endeavor. Be patient with yourself and try to have fun.