

# Contemporary Music 11

Fall Semester 2023



*Students must designate a specialty (either visual arts or music) before the midterm assessment period has ended. Prior to that time, they are encouraged to explore multiple media in a variety of creative contexts.*

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Students explore a diverse range of musical sources, recordings, documents to further develop practical skills for preparing, performing, and creating music. All students are encouraged to consider specialization, but also to sing and play a number of instruments including piano, guitar, bass, drums and percussion. Each student is given the opportunity to share some of their most treasured pieces of music for analysis of compositional structure and production techniques, and occasionally as jumping off points for their own original works. At the theoretical level, there is an expectation for students to be able to understand more complex rhythmical concepts of syncopation and polyrhythms. Harmonically, varied scale forms and chord progressions are brought into play and embedded into all musical material listened to, discussed, and performed. Contemporary song writing, instrumentation, music production and recording methods are broken down into detail. Finally, music related careers/professional opportunities are always considered as central core concepts for discussion when analyzing contemporary forms of music. Students are given opportunities to utilize self/peer assessment and to guide personally relevant inquiries into local and international First Nation's forms of musical tradition/culture.

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**

- Music reflects aspects of time, place, and community.
- The nuances of musical expression are understood through deeper study and performance.
- A musician's interpretation of existing work is an opportunity to represent identity and learn ways musicians adapt and survive within the current business models
- Enduring understanding of music is gained through perseverance, resilience, and risk taking.
- Contemporary music offers aesthetic experiences that can transform our perspective.

## Curricular Competencies

### **A. Explore and create**

1. Perform in both solo and ensemble contexts
2. Explore a composer's musical and expressive intentions
3. Express meaning, intent, and emotion through music
4. Improvise and take creative risks in contemporary music
5. Explore new musical ideas by combining genres or styles
6. Explore a variety of contexts and their influences on musical works, including place and time
7. Develop and refine technical and expressive skills

### **B. Reason and reflect**

1. Analyze and interpret musicians' use of technique, technology, and environment in musical composition, arranging, and performance, using musical language
2. Reflect on personal rehearsal and performance experiences and musical growth
3. Consider the function of their instrument, voice, or role within an ensemble or collaborative effort
4. Analyze styles of music to inform musical decisions

### **C. Communicate and document**

1. Document and share musical works and experiences in a variety of contexts
2. Use musical vocabulary to communicate about contemporary music
3. Receive and apply constructive feedback
4. Anticipate individual responses to a piece of music
5. Express personal voice, cultural identity, perspective, and values in musical study and performance
6. Demonstrate awareness of self, others, and audience

### **D. Connect and expand**

1. Demonstrate personal and social responsibility associated with creating, performing, and responding to contemporary music
2. Develop a diverse repertoire of contemporary music that includes multiple perspectives and contexts
3. Demonstrate understanding of creative processes
4. Explore and relate musical selections to personal, social, or cultural issues
5. Use technical knowledge and contextual observation to make musical decisions
6. Demonstrate safe care, use, and maintenance of instruments and equipment
7. Identify and practise appropriate self-care to prevent performance-related injury

## 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, group discussions of student 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).**

## Evaluation Scheme

**50% - Performances/Productions:** - Ongoing individual and collaborative musical repertoire development culminating in midterm and final online performances/productions. Compositional strategies should be evident in original work. Both live and recorded works should be performed with care and attention to timing, intonation and musical phrasing.

**25% - Quizzes and Theory Studies**

**25%- Self and peer assessment and other written assignments**

## Class Rules and Expectations

1. Make your very best effort to always be on time for class.
2. Bring a journal or notebook every day.
3. Phones may only be used for research or digital software processes being explored in class. If they are being used for anything else they will be taken away for the remainder of the class.
4. Stay actively engaged in all classroom activities and lessons. Take notes in your journals and do not rely on taking photographs of the whiteboard.
5. Be responsible for coming up with your own ideas and your own solutions to problems unless you are working in collaboration with other students.

6. Take care of the space and all musical instruments and peripherals (cables, song lyrics, microphones, etc.). Doing so shows you care about your work and your environment.
7. **Understand that the study of music involves managing and exploring entire processes as well as achieving results. Mistakes that come about from honest effort are more likely to be rewarded than punished in my classes.**