Conrad Grebel University College University of Waterloo

Music 376: Composition Seminar

Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30-3:50

Location: Room 1208

Instructor: Dr Karen Sunabacka

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11am and 4-5pm, and Fridays 2-3:30pm and by

appointment. Tuesdays and Thursdays 2-4 online ONLY. Email me or book an appointment here: https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/bkg-

OfficeHoursKarenSunabacka@uwaterloo.ca/bookings/

Office Location: CGR 1108

Phone: 519-885-0220 x24245 (best to send email or visit during office hours.)

Email: karen.sunabacka@uwaterloo.ca

Classroom Expectations

• Students shall not attend class if they are feeling sick and if recovering from being sick it is recommended that you wear a face-covering/mask.

• If there is any reason that class cannot meet in-person, an email and announcement on LEARN will inform students of this change. Any assignment changes or altered assignments will be in the weekly module where weekly in-person class information, handouts, and potential class recordings are located.

Course Description:

An exploration of music composition and arranging through regular listening, discussion and music creation. The course will give students tools for composing in various styles while maintaining their unique voice. Emphasis will be placed on compositional expression, notation, score preparation and live performance. In-class performances of all student compositions is an essential component of the learning experience in this course.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course students will be able to:

- 1. Recognize and evaluate various compositional styles and techniques.
- 2. Discuss the different approaches to notation and score preparation.
- 3. Identify and apply different techniques to create various timbres and textures in music.
- 4. Examine and prepare compositional sketches.
- 5. Recognize and compose with the instruments of the orchestra.
- 6. Prepare and produce a concert of music with peers.
- 7. Compose original music and present in score format with proper music notation.

Prerequisite: Music 271 or permission from the instructor

Tentative Course Schedule¹

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due:
1 Sept. 6, 11 & 13	Sept. 6 • Introduction to Composition and Course – Topic and assignment discussions and building. Sept. 11 • Finished discussion of Schedule and assignments Sept. 13		
	Basics of CompositionWhat is Composition?	Grove Music Online: Composition	
2 Sept. 18 & 20	 Harmonizing and Arranging A brief introduction to different ensembles (Including concert band) Different approaches to 20th and 21st Century harmony.	Excerpts from Orchestration books and from Behind Bars	
3 Sept. 25 & 27	 Finish discussion from previous class, and a discussion about arranging. Attendance at Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Rehearsal: 1:30-4pm @ Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts. 	Short article about arranging	
4 Oct. 2 & 4	Discussion about KWS rehearsal and performance Score and Part Preparation Oct. 4 COMPOSITION 1 Performances/Presentations Biographies and Careers	- Thanksgiving BREAK	DUE: Composition 1 (Harmonizing/ Arranging piece)

-

¹ Subject to change with class discussions and majority agreement.

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due:
5	Experimental Text		
Oct. 16	Oct. 16		
& 18	 Introduction to alternative use of 	Pauline Oliveros &	
	text in contemporary	Deep listening.	
	compositions	Text in music from	
	 Pauline Oliveros and Deep 	Experimental music	Oct. 18 – Biography
	Listening.	book. (Gottschalk)?	DUE
	Oct. 18		
	 Experimental text cont. 		
6	Oct. 23		Oct. 23 –
Oct. 23	 COMPOSITION 2 		Composition 2 DUE
& 25	performances/presentations		(Experimental text
	 Introduction to setting text 		piece)
	Setting Text		
	Oct. 25	Article about - Writing for	
	 Different ways to set text – 	solo voice and choirs	
	Strong and weak		
	 Different ensembles using text. 		
7	Oct. 30		
Oct. 30	 Setting text. Cont. 		
& Nov. 1	Nov. 1		Nov. 1 –
	 COMPOSITION 3 		Composition 3 DUE
	performances/presentation		(Setting text piece)
	 Introduction to Electronic Music 		
	(A quick history)		
8	Electronic Music	Introduction to Electronic	
Nov. 6 &	Nov. 6	Music article or chapter	
8	 Forms of Electronic music and 		
	programs that create electronic		
	music.		
	 Recording sounds to create 		
	electronic music.		
	 Creating sounds using electronics 		
	 Live performances using 		
	electronics		
	Nov. 8		
	 Electronic Music continued 		
	Video game music?		
9	Nov. 13		Nov. 13 –
Nov. 13	 COMPOSITION 4 		Composition 4 DUE
& 15	Performances/Presentations		(Electronic Music)
	 Intro to Improvising 		
	Improvising		
	Nov. 15		
	 Special Guest 		

Week	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due:
10	Nov. 20		
Nov. 20	 Improvising cont. (Creating a 	Article/chapter about	
& 22	score through chance)	improvising	
	Nov. 22		
	 Improvising cont. (creating an environment where chance is part of the performance) 		
11	Nov. 27		Nov. 27 –
Nov. 27	COMPOSITION 5		Composition 5 DUE
& 29	Performance/Presentation		(Improvisation
	Nov. 29		piece)
	 Flex days/preparation for Final 		
	Concert		
12	Dec. 4		
Dec. 4	 Preparation for Final Concert 		
DURING			
EXAM			
PERIOD	Concert of Compositions - Chapel		
TIME:			
TBA			

Required Materials

- Pencil
- Manuscript Paper
- Reading and listening materials will be available on reserve in the library and on LEARN.

Optional Texts (required readings will be posted in LEARN):

- Gould, Elaine. (2011). Behind Bars: The Definitive Guide to Music Notation. Faber Music Ltd.
- Blatter, Alfred. (1997). Instrumentation and Orchestration 2nd ed. Schirmer, Cengage Learning.
- Kostka, Stefan and Matthew Santa. Materials and Techniques of Post-Tonal Music. 5th ed. Routledge

Web Page: This course will make use of a WATERLOO LEARN website. This site will provide general information for the course, study guides and grades for term tests. Important announcements such as the cancellation of class due to illness will also be posted there, so please try to check the site before each class, just in case.

Evaluations:

Assignment	Weighting
Composition assignments (5) 10% each	50%
Biography (Written Assignment)	5%
Class Discussions	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Concert	25%

Course Requirements:

There are five composition assignments based on the five broad topics decided upon for this course. Along with this, there will be one written assignment (a biography), and participation based grades for class discussion, participation and attendance. There will also be a final concert where everyone will have one of their pieces performed, and the class will work together to plan, prepare programs, publicize, organize, and present a concert of original music.

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be accepted until two days (or 48 hours) after the assignment was due.

A NOTE about composing, student life and mental health

Composing can be frustrating, difficult, life-giving, healing and exhilarating (I still experience all of this regularly during my own creative work). Everyone's experiences of composing are unique, and a process that can bring us to deep reflections of ourselves. Some may find the assignments easy or fun, while others may find the process difficult. These are all healthy experiences of being a creative person. The process may also bring up difficult memories, experiences and trauma. I have composed works about mental illness, deep disappointment in my life, and transcendent life-giving experience. I have also composed about puppies, golf games and prairie landscapes. There is no "correct" way to compose and no "correct" topic on which to focus. If you are struggling, or if you are getting triggered in any way, please let me know (email, phone call, or come to my office!) I am willing to help you seek out the help you may need. Music can be a way to heal, but we want to approach this in a healthy way, and not in a way that sinks us deeper into our despair.

Administrative Policy

Territorial Acknowledgement: The University of Waterloo acknowledges that much of our work takes place on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. Our main campus is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land granted to the Six Nations that includes six miles on each side of the Grand River. Our active work toward reconciliation takes place across our campuses through research, learning, teaching, and community building, and is centralized within the Office of Indigenous Relations. I am Red River Métis, a member of the Manitoba Métis Federation and I grew up in Treaty 1 Territory, the original lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininiwak, Anishininiwak, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Generative AI

This course includes the independent development and practice of specific skills, such as original composition and critical and thoughtful observations of live music. Therefore, the use of Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) trained using large language models (LLM) or other methods to produce text, images, music, or code, like Chat GPT, DALL-E, or GitHub CoPilot, is not permitted in this class. Unauthorized use in this course, such as running course materials through GenAI or using GenAI to complete a course assessment is considered a violation of Policy 71 (plagiarism or unauthorized aids or assistance). Work produced with the assistance of AI tools does not represent the author's original work and is therefore in violation of the fundamental values of academic integrity including honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and courage (ICAI, n.d.).

You should be prepared to show your work. To demonstrate your learning, you should keep your rough notes, including research notes, brainstorming, and drafting notes. You may be asked to submit these

notes along with earlier drafts of their work, either through saved drafts or saved versions of a document. If the use of GenAI is suspected where not permitted, you may be asked to meet with your instructor or TA to provide explanations to support the submitted material as being your original work. Through this process, if you have not sufficiently supported your work, academic misconduct allegations may be brought to the Associate Dean.

In addition, you should be aware that the legal/copyright status of generative AI inputs and outputs is unclear. More information is available from the Copyright Advisory

Committee: https://uwaterloo.ca/copyright-at-waterloo/teaching/generative-artificial-intelligence

Students are encouraged to reach out to campus supports if they need help with their coursework including:

- Student Success Office for help with skills like notetaking and time management
- Writing and Communication Centre for assignments with writing or presentations
- AccessAbility Services for documented accommodations
- <u>Library</u> for research-based assignments

Chosen/Preferred First Name

Do you want professors and interviewers to call you by a different first name? Take a minute now to verify or tell us your chosen/preferred first name by logging into <u>WatIAM</u>.

Why? Starting in winter 2020, your chosen/preferred first name listed in WatIAM will be used broadly across campus (e.g., LEARN, Quest, WaterlooWorks, WatCard, etc). Note: Your legal first name will always be used on certain official documents. For more details, visit Updating Personal Information.

Important notes

- If you included a preferred name on your OUAC application, it will be used as your chosen/preferred name unless you make a change now.
- If you don't provide a chosen/preferred name, your legal first name will continue to be used.

Mental Health Support

All of us need a support system. The faculty and staff in Arts encourage students to seek out mental health support if they are needed.

On Campus

Due to COVID-19 and campus closures, services are available only online or by phone.

- Counselling Services: counselling.services@uwaterloo.ca / 519-888-4567 ext. 32655
- MATES: one-to-one peer support program offered by the Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) and Counselling Services

Off campus, 24/7

- Good2Talk: Free confidential help line for post-secondary students. Phone: 1-866-925-5454
- Grand River Hospital: Emergency care for mental health crisis. Phone: 519-749-4300 ext. 6880

- Here 24/7: Mental Health and Crisis Service Team. Phone: 1-844-437-3247
- OK2BME: set of support services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning teens in Waterloo. Phone: 519-884-0000 extension 213

Full details can be found online on the Faculty of Arts website

Download <u>UWaterloo</u> and regional mental health resources (PDF)

Download the WatSafe app to your phone to quickly access mental health support information.

University Policy

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read <u>Policy 70, Student Petitions</u> <u>and Grievances, Section 4</u>. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under <u>Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances</u> (other than a petition) or <u>Policy 71, Student Discipline</u> may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to <u>Policy 72, Student Appeals</u>.

Note for students with disabilities: AccessAbility Services, located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.