

MUSIC 170 Introduction to Composition and Sonic Arts

Winter 2026 | LEC B1 | Tues/Thurs 2-3:20pm

Instructor: Mark Hannesson

The ability to read music and perform on an instrument is required. Registration priority given to BMus (all routes), BMus/BEd, BA (Honors) Music Major, BEd Music Major/Minor, and BA Music Major students.

An introduction to both acoustic and electronic, computer-based composition and sonic art creation.

A hands-on, experiential course in the creation of contemporary music. Discussions, listening, selected readings, and exercises in writing music will all be included. A very basic understanding of music theory, music notation, and digital audio tools will be extremely helpful for the course, but no compositional experience is expected.

This course will focus on the creation of contemporary classical music in the 21st Century. This is a broad and exciting area of study, including experimental notational techniques, electronic music, field recording, installation art, computer art, performance art, and others. What bridges all of these types of art is an incredible breadth of creative possibility, perhaps more so than in any other period in history. We will attempt to actively explore this breadth.