**School of Fine Art and Music**

**Winter Semester 2025**

**MUSC\*3490-01**

**TOPICS IN DIGITAL MUSIC**

**TOPIC: Acoustic Ecology, Soundscapes, and Immersive Sound**

**INSTRUCTOR:** James Harley

**TIME:** Tuesday & Thursday, 1:00 – 2:20 pm

**LOCATION:** MacKinnon 206

**OFFICE:** MacKinnon 213

**PHONE:** Ext. 52989

**EMAIL:** jharley@uoguelph.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** Thursday, 2:30 – 3:30pm, or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

This is a course which focuses on a specific area of digital music production. Topics may include advanced audio production, advanced MIDI sequencing, advanced music notation/instrumentation, synthesis and signal processing, music-oriented computer programming, or interactive computer music.

**Offering(s):**First Offering W25

**Prerequisite(s):**7.50 credits, including [MUSC\*2100](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/search/?P=MUSC*2100)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In W25, the topic is **Acoustic Ecology, Soundscapes, and Immersive Sound**. Students will pursue readings and research in these areas, and will explore and analyze representative works. In addition, students will gain experience recording real-world sounds, editing and processing them with the aim of creating new works. Students will also explore listening and producing immersive audio. At the end of the semester, students will present research and creative work.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

* To understand aspects of the theory and practice of acoustic ecology.
* To develop the ability to analyze and engage with soundscapes in the world and related creative work.
* To gain technical facility for recording, editing, and processing soundscape materials in different musical pr media contexts.
* To gain a sense of the breadth of applications in this field.
* To develop the critical capacity to judge quality in this field and to know how to produce high-quality sound work that suits particular media.
* To engage creatively with a major project in the realm of soundscape creation and immersive sound.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:**

Reading Summaries 15%

Class Presentations 15%

Listening Assignments 15%

Soundscape Project 15%

Immersive Sound Project 15%

Final Project Presentation (TBA) 25%

NOTE: Unexcused late assignments will not be accepted. Assignments are due by the day and the time set, normally by start of class. Attendance/participation, especially for clas presentations, is required in order to receive full credit.

**Email 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.](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml)

**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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml) 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](http://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](https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/2014-2015/c01/index.shtml)

**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](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml).

**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](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index) are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.