



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS - MUSIC**  
**MUSI 402.8 Topics in Popular Music (Video Game Music)**  
**Spring 2016**

Instructor Office Email Office Hours	Alyssa Aska By appointment alyssa.aska@ucalgary.ca By appointment
Day(s),time(s) and location of Class	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-2:45, Craigie Hall F202
Out of class activities	
Learning resources: required readings, textbooks and materials	There is no required textbook for the course. The required material for the course consists of reading materials and software, all of which will either be handed out in class or posted online.
Prerequisites	None. This course may be repeated for credit.
Supplementary fees	None.
Course description	Selected topics examining commercial music from a critical perspective. Topics may include the examination of the work of specific creators or performers, the recording industry, the impact of specific instruments (guitar, percussion, electronic media, etc.), or cross-cultural influences.
Course overview	Introduction to the study of video game music, including: its historical development and major composers, unique stylistic characteristics, and influence in today's culture.
Course learning outcomes	By the completion of this course, successful students will be able to: 1. Discover how the historical development of video game music was influenced by technological innovations and diverse musics. 2. Recognize the stylistic characteristics of prominent video game composers. 3. Develop the vocabulary and approaches needed in the analysis of video game music. 4. Explore the interactions between video game music and various cultures, subcultures, and musics.
Course schedule:	May 10: Introduction and early history through 16-bit era May 12: History through first generation 64-bit May 17: Late history, including the XBOX,PS2, GameCube, and early next generation May 19: Recent history through the present May 24: Terms and discussion of music for interactive media <b>Assignment 1 due</b> May 26: Congress - No class June 7: Mid-term exam June 9: Harmony, melody, and form in video game music June 14: Characterization and storytelling in video game music <b>Assignment 2 due</b> June 16: Drama and narrative in video game music June 21: Sound effects and immersion in video games June 23: Cultural and historical sources in video game music <b>Assignment 3 due</b> June 28: Reception of video game music, social culture June 30: Wrap-up, conclusion, future of video game music

<b>July 4: Final project due, all components</b>	
Assessment components	<p>Grading scheme:  Participation 10%  Assignments 45% (three assignments, 15% each)  Midterm exam 20%  Final Project 25%</p> <p><i>Participation</i>  Participation means showing up to class in a friendly and focused mood and contributing to the learning experience of yourself as well as your classmates. This means joining in constructive conversation and being prepared with the information you are expected to have learned. Emailing me your thoughts on subjects we are covering in class also counts towards your participation grade. While attendance is not mandatory for the class, if you are not present, you cannot participate.</p> <p><i>Homework</i>  This course consists of three assignments, which contain written, creative, and exploratory exercises. These assignments will allow you to deepen your understanding of the material we are covering in class, whilst also exploring on your own some of the more creative concepts. These assignments will also be used to guide you towards your final project.</p> <p><i>Midterm exam</i>  There is one exam in the course, and this will cover only those topics that are covered prior to the exam. This exam will consist of three sections: listening identification, short answer questions, and a short written response.</p> <p><i>Final project</i>  Students have two options regarding the final project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Term paper on a piece of video game music, entire game soundtrack, or other topic pertaining to video game music</li> <li>2) Creative project which explores concepts discussed in class, such as a piece of music in a specific historical style, a piece of software, or other creative project that somehow relates to course material</li> </ol> <p>Final projects will be proposed to the instructor after the midterm exam and must be approved. Students will also receive detailed instructions regarding the requirements.</p>
Assessment expectations	<p><u>Expectations for Writing:</u>  Writing skills are important to academic study across all disciplines. Consequently, instructors may use their assessment of writing quality as a factor in the evaluation of student work. Please refer to the Undergraduate Calendar E.2 Writing Across the Curriculum policy for details.</p> <p><u>Expectations for Attendance and Participation:</u>  This class involves a large portion of critical listening and discussion, and therefore much of the learning will occur in class. Poor attendance will contribute to a lack of understanding of material, and ultimately, will hinder the success of the student. Participation also makes up a portion of the total grade, and absent students cannot participate. Therefore, good attendance is encouraged.</p>

	<p><u>Guidelines for Formatting Assignments</u> Written and paper assignments should be legible and clean, and should follow all instructions. Students should make sure to have their last name and student number on all pages of written assignments, and on all components within a folder if they are submitting digital elements.</p> <p><u>Guidelines for Submitting Assignments</u> Paper assignments can be submitted in person, or online. Assignments must be received by class time on the due date given. If students wish to submit assignments online, they need to be emailed/uploaded by class time on the due date given. Students will be given detailed instructions regarding the submission of any electronic assignments.</p> <p><u>Late Assignments</u> This is a fast-paced spring course, and therefore, it is important that assignments are handed in on time. Therefore, late submission of assignments will only be allowed if the student can provide documentation of illness or other unavoidable circumstances, or with prior extension from the Instructor.</p> <p><u>Criteria That Must Be Met To Pass</u> Students must complete the midterm and the final project to pass the course. If you cannot attend the midterm, please make arrangements to write it at a different time as soon as possible.</p>																																							
Grading scale	<p>For the course as a whole, letter grades should be understood as follows, as outlined in the section F.2 of the Undergraduate Calendar for 2015-2016:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="516 989 1398 1627"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th> <th>GPA</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A+</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Outstanding.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A-</td> <td>3.70</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B+</td> <td>3.30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>3.00</td> <td>Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B-</td> <td>2.70</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C+</td> <td>2.30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>2.00</td> <td>Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C-</td> <td>1.70</td> <td>Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D+</td> <td>1.30</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>D</td> <td>1.00</td> <td>Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>F</td> <td>0</td> <td>Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	GPA	Description	A+	4.00	Outstanding.	A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	A-	3.70		B+	3.30		B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	B-	2.70		C+	2.30		C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)	D+	1.30		D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.	F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.
Grade	GPA	Description																																						
A+	4.00	Outstanding.																																						
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.																																						
A-	3.70																																							
B+	3.30																																							
B	3.00	Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.																																						
B-	2.70																																							
C+	2.30																																							
C	2.00	Satisfactory - basic understanding of the subject matter.																																						
C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation. (See individual undergraduate faculty regulations.)																																						
D+	1.30																																							
D	1.00	Minimal pass - marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.																																						
F	0	Fail - unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.																																						
Midterm and final examination scheduling	<p>Final examinations may be scheduled at any time during the examination period (2-4 July for Spring 2016 term; 19-22 August for Summer 2016 term); students should therefore avoid making prior travel, employment, or other commitments for this period. If a student is unable to write an exam through no fault of his or her own for medical or other valid reasons, documentation must be provided and an opportunity to write the missed exam may be given. Students are encouraged to review all examination policies and procedures: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final">ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final</a></p>																																							

Deferrals of exams/term work	It is possible to request a deferral of term work or final examinations for reasons of illness, accident, family or domestic affliction, or religious obligations. Please check with your advisor if any of these issues make it impossible for you to sit an exam or finish term work by stated deadlines. <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final">ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred_final</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html</a>
Internet and electronic communication device	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/">elearn.ucalgary.ca/category/d2l/</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app">ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/emergency-instructions/uc-emergency-app</a> The in-class use of computers may be approved by your Instructor. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be silenced or turned off upon entering the classroom. If you violate the Instructor's policy regarding the use of electronic communication devices in the classroom, you may be asked to leave the classroom; repeated abuse may result in a charge of misconduct. No audio or video recording of any kind is allowed in class without explicit permission of the Instructor.
Academic integrity, plagiarism	The University of Calgary is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are referred to the section on plagiarism in the University Calendar ( <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.html</a> ) and are reminded that plagiarism-- Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it—is an extremely serious academic offence. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university. You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources. Please consult your instructor or the Student Success Centre (TFDL 3rd Floor) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.
Copyright	It is the responsibility of students and professors to ensure that materials they post or distribute to others comply with the Copyright Act and the University's Fair Dealing Guidance for Students. Further copyright information for students is available on the Copyright Office web page ( <a href="http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright">library.ucalgary.ca/copyright</a> ).
Academic accommodation	Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS); SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/">www.ucalgary.ca/access/</a> . Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf">http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf</a> .
FOIP	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy">ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy</a>
Student misconduct	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html</a>
Academic standing	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html">ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f.html</a>
Safewalk	220-5333 anytime. <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk">ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk</a>
Campus security	220-5333. Help phones: located throughout campus, parking lots, and elevators. They connect directly to Campus Security; in case of emergency, press the red button.
Emergency evacuation	Assembly points for emergencies have been identified across campus. <b>THE PRIMARY ASSEMBLY POINT FOR CRAIGIE HALL IS THE PROFESSIONAL FACULTIES FOOD COURT.</b> For more information, see the University of Calgary's Emergency Management website: <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a>
Faculty of Arts program advising and student information resources	For academic advising, visit the Arts Students' Centre (ASC) for answers about course registration, graduation checks, and the 'big picture' on programs and majors. Drop in at SS102, email us at <a href="mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca">ascarts@ucalgary.ca</a> or call us at 403-220-3580. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts

	<p>website at <a href="http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate">arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate</a> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.</p> <p>For academic success support, such as writing support, peer support, success seminars, and learning support, visit the Student Success Centre on the third floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL), email them at <a href="mailto:success@ucalgary.ca">success@ucalgary.ca</a> or visit their website at <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc/">ucalgary.ca/ssc/</a> for more information or to book an appointment.</p> <p>For enrolment assistance, including registration (add/drop/swap) changes, paying fees, and navigating your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625], by email at <a href="mailto:futurestudents@ucalgary.ca">futurestudents@ucalgary.ca</a> or visit them at the MacKimmie Block 117.</p>
Course outlines for transfer credit	<p>It is possible that you will be asked for copies of this outline for credit transfers to other institutions or for proof of work done. It is the student's responsibility to keep these outlines and provide them to employers or other universities when requested. Please ensure that outlines of all the courses you take are kept in a safe place for your future reference. Departments/Programs do not guarantee that they will provide copies.</p>
Letter of permission	<p>If you wish to study at another institution while registered at the U of C, you must have a letter of permission. You can submit your request through your Student Centre at MyUofC. Students must have the Letter of Permission before they take the course at another school. Failure to prepare may result in no credit awarded and could result in suspension from the faculty.</p>
Students' union and ombudsperson contacts	<p>Student Union: <a href="http://su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/">su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/</a>  Faculty of Arts reps: <a href="mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca">arts1@su.ucalgary.ca</a>; <a href="mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca">arts2@su.ucalgary.ca</a>; <a href="mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca">arts3@su.ucalgary.ca</a>; <a href="mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca">arts4@su.ucalgary.ca</a>  Graduate Student's Association: <a href="http://gsa.ucalgary.ca/executive">gsa.ucalgary.ca/executive</a>  Student Ombudsman: <a href="http://su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights">su.ucalgary.ca/page/quality-education/academic-services/student-rights</a></p>
Undergraduate associations	<p>DUS: Drama Undergraduate Society, CHC 005 <a href="mailto:uofcdus@gmail.com">uofcdus@gmail.com</a>  MUS: Music Undergraduate Society, CHF 219 <a href="mailto:undmusic@ucalgary.ca">undmusic@ucalgary.ca</a></p>