

HELIX!
New Music Ensemble
Course Code 08:703:501
Director – Prof. Kynan Johns
Office & Hours – Mor5025A Wednesday’s 10-12
kdjohns@mgsa.rutgers.edu

Syllabus

Purpose of course	To provide instrumental students high level performance experience in challenging and important contemporary chamber music within a modular new music ensemble.
Aims	The pedagogical aims of the Helix! are threefold; Firstly, to explore the important chamber ensemble repertoire of the 20th and 21st centuries; secondly, to read and perform new music specifically composed for the ensemble by student composers; and thirdly, to develop conducting skills in this repertoire of both student conductors and student composers.
Course Description	Helix! is a 16-piece new music ensemble comprising string quintet, wind and brass quartets, percussion and piano. The ensemble explores important chamber ensemble repertoire of the 20 th and 21 st centuries alongside world premieres of student and faculty composers. The ensemble performs at Rutgers and frequently at LPR (Le Poisson Rouge in NYC).
Assessment	Grades will be awarded based on attendance. Any unexcused absence will result in the lowering of a grade by one whole letter. Two tardies equals one absence. Grades will also be judged based on level of preparation, quality of participation and concert execution.
Learning outcomes	It is expected students will gain an increased appreciation of contemporary music and be introduced to composers not previously encountered. It is also expected students will gain increased rhythmic skills and benefit from mastering and applying advanced instrumental techniques often required in new music.
Repertoire	Composers and works for consideration - Negrón, Mazzoli, Snyder, Norman Try, Ligeti Chamber Concerto, Michael van der Aa Mask, Currier remix, Wolfe, Gruber Frankenstein, Carter Mosaic, Vareses Offrandes, Harbison, Lutoslawski Chain I, Boulez Eclat, Birwhistle Secret Theater, Carter Asko Concerto, Lang Cheating, lying, stealing, Druckman Incenters, Xenakis Thallein, Peter Lieberon Free and easy wanderer, Chris Rouse Compline, Mackey Indigenous instruments, Stockhausen Kreuzspiel, Ligeti Mysteries of the Macabre, Oliver Knussen Coursing, O’Regan, Shaw, Wolfe, Larsen, Tabakova, Clyne, Cleare and student works
Student Compositions	Score and parts for fall performances of student works are due by September 1st and should be placed in Maestro Johns' mailbox.

ENSEMBLE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Meetings times - Tuesday 3:55-6:30

Meeting place - RH104

Tuesday September 11	3:55-6:30 (1)
Tuesday September 18	3:55-6:30 (2)
Tuesday September 25	3:55-6:30 (3)
Tuesday October 2	3:55-6:30 (4)
Tuesday October 9	3:55-6:30 (5) (n/a)
Sunday October 14	6-9 (6)
Tuesday October 16	3:55-6:30 (7)
Tuesday October 23	3:55-6:30 (8)
Sunday October 28	6-9 (9) WLT240
Tuesday October 30	3:55-6:30 (10)
Sunday November 4	5pm – sound check (tbc) 8pm CONCERT