AMST 201: ELECTRONIC MUSIC & POPULAR CULTURE

Online, four-week module, May 16–June 10
Instructor: Jeff Wimble

This course surveys the history of electronic music from the early twentieth century to the present. In addition to an examination of musical genres—including hip-hop, house, techno, jungle, trance, and ambient styles—we will focus on the various cultures and communities that create this music and listen to it. This means that besides listening to a lot of great electronic music, we will also think critically about it, delving into ideas such as:

- the role of technology in music production and consumption
- binary oppositions: digital/analog, machine/human, innovation/tradition
- sampling, copyright, and intellectual property
- local and transnational social formations associated with musical styles and genres

There is no textbook for this course—reading materials will be provided online. There will also be ample listening assignments, some writing assignments, and lots of spirited online discussion related to the course topics.