025:250 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA I
Fall, 1996
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The course is an introduction to the compositional aspects of digital sound editing and synthesis. There are no exams in this course. Grading will be based solely on weekly assignments and a final composition which will be premiered on a "New Works from the Electronic Music Studios" concert on Dec. 10, 8:00 PM in Clapp Recital Hall.

Compositional work for the course will be done primarily in Studios One and Two. Each studio houses a Power Mac 8500 with a Kyma DSP processing system and a Digidesign Audiomedia digital interface card. These devices all users to work in a variety of realtime and nonrealtime digital sound formats which include digital editing, processing, and mixing, digital synthesis, and MIDI sequencing. In the Spring semester, students will also use each system's SGI Indy computer in conjunction with the Mac/Kyma configuration for realtime interactive synthesis and processing. Since students will have access to two of the most powerful compositional workstations in the country, it is expected that they will devote at least 6 hours per week to assignments and compositions.

Later in the quarter, students will be able to sign up for weekly times in Studio One (which also houses analog synthesis and processing equipment) and permanent times in Studio Two (which also has video capabilities). Students may also use the Macintosh in Studio Three as well as any ITC computer on campus. All studio computers are networked to a single file server as well as to ITC computers. Students thus should have 24-hour access to their soundfiles from anywhere on campus.

Keys for the studios may be checked out from Kirk Corey. For security reasons, students who lose keys will be charged $100 to rekey the locks. A list of other studio rules will be distributed shortly.

Students will not be allowed to permanently store their soundfiles on any studio computer disk. Instead, students may purchase either 100 MB Iomega Zip disks (@$20 from campus bookstore or Best Buy) or 1 GB Iomega Jaz disks (@$93 from Weeg). Both types of external drives will be found in the studios. Note that 100 MB disks will hold 20 minutes of monophonic sound, while 1GB disks hold 200 minutes of mono sound (stereo files will be twice as large). Students will also need at least two 30-minute DAT tapes, which may be purchased from Kirk Corey.

Since the studios are in the process of being equipped, no set calendar of assignments or topics can be determined. Therefore, it is doubly important not to miss any classes. Students who must miss class for any reason must contact Prof. Fritts beforehand. Failure to use the studios at least once per week will result in a failing grade and denial of access to the studios for the rest of the semester. If illness or emergency occurs, contact Prof. Fritts immediately.

The compositional aesthetics which lie at the root of the course emphasize variety, musical direction, and musical phrasing. Students should always be aware of the roles that pitch, register, harmony, timbre, and rhythmic durations, successions, and density play in this aesthetic. Course assignments will have the dual function of teaching electronic music technique while at the same time directing the musical imagination toward the interconnected roles that the various parameters of sound play in the shape of a composition.