

025:250 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA I

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Goals: To learn how to edit, mix, process, synthesize, and control digital sound. Students will use applications such as Sound Designer, Protools, Kyma, Studio Vision, Sound Hack and others to create a composition for the final project.

Grading: Final grades will be based on the following criteria:

<u>Class Presentations:</u>	15%
<u>Assignments:</u>	15
<u>Studio Activities:</u>	10
<u>Final Composition:</u>	
30" due Sept. 22:	10
1' due Oct. 6:	10
2' due Oct. 22:	10
4' due Nov. 10:	10
5' due Nov. 24:	10
Final version due Dec. 3:	10

Class Presentations: Students will develop their teaching skills by giving presentations on software, hardware, and other aspects of electronic music composition. Software demonstrations should include handouts with screen snapshots as well as prepared audio examples. Each presentation will be put on the EMS web-page for future reference.

Assignments: The primary purpose of the assignments given throughout the semester will be to generate compositional material for the final composition. Grading criteria includes musicality, originality, variety, and flexibility, as well as demonstration of ability to follow instructions and to solve and work around problems.

Studio Activities: Students will engage in a cooperative effort to maintain the studio areas in a professional manner. This includes checking signal flow configurations, seeing that the studios are spotless and professionally organized, and solving technical problems that arise. Students will also contribute to studio development through work on the EMS web page, archives, and performance projects.

Final Composition: The final composition will be a 5' piece for stereo digital tape. The timetable above gives the dates by which working versions of the piece must be ready. Grading will be based on the same criteria as for assignments. Additionally, each phase of the composition must show evidence that the composer has positively responded to criticisms and suggestions concerning earlier phases.

General Expectations: Students are expected to be punctual in arriving for class, turning in assignments, meeting with others, and helping set up for the concert. Students should always review class notes before each class and have note-taking material ready, even during informal discussions, since vital technical information may be imparted at any time.

Students should expect to put in a minimum of 10 hours per week on course projects and studio activities. A log of all activities and time spent will be kept by each student. This log may be requested by the faculty at any time.

Studio Policies: Students are expected to follow all EMS Studio Policies.

Calendar

- Aug. 25 Intro to Digital Audio; **Sound Designer**
- Aug. 27 Intro to DSP transformations; **Sound Hack**
- Sept. 1 NO CLASS
- Sept. 3 Intro to non-destructive editing and mixing; **ProTools**
- Sept. 8 Creating compositional fragments for source material.
- Sept. 10 Generating more source material by transforming, editing, re-transforming, re-editing, . . . of fragments.
- Sept. 15 Assembling fragments in ProTools.
- Sept. 17 Intro to **Kyma**.
- Sept. 22 **30" of composition due.** Class critique.
- Sept. 24 Spectral morphing in Kyma.
- Sept. 29 FM, noise, filters, and envelopes in Kyma.
- Oct. 1 Intro to **Studio Vision** and **CyberSynth**
- Oct. 6 **1' of composition due.** Class critique.
- Oct. 8 More Studio Vision.
- Oct. 13 Individual lessons.
- Oct. 15 Individual lessons.
- Oct. 20 **2' of composition due.** Class critique.
- Oct. 22 Special topics.
- Oct. 27 Special topics.
- Oct. 29 Special topics.
- Nov. 3 Individual lessons.
- Nov. 5 Individual lessons.
- Nov. 10 **4' of composition due.** Class critique.
- Nov. 12 Kyma synthesis.
- Nov. 17 Individual lessons.
- Nov. 19 Individual lessons.
- Nov. 24 **5' of composition due.** Class critique.

Nov. 26 NO CLASS

Dec. 1 Kyma synthesis.

Dec. 3 **Final version due.** Class critique.

Dec. 8 Kyma synthesis.

Dec. 9 **Concert, Clapp Hall 8:00.** All students must be in Studio 1 by 6:00 PM to help with concert set up.