

025:250 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA I

Lawrence Fritts

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Office hours: MWF, 12:00-3:30.

Fall 2003

Staff: Tohm Judson at thomas-judson@uiowa.edu

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Goals: Students will learn techniques for composing electro-acoustic music. These techniques include recording, editing, transformation, and mixing with programs such as Peak, Sound Hack, and Pro Tools. Two other programs, Kyma and Max/MSP will be taught next semester. However, we will give an overview of these programs this semester. The course will also include EMS concert participation, in-class listening and discussion, and presentation of student works in progress.

Grading: Grades are based on participation/attendance (10%), class presentations (20%), and the final composition (70%). Poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

Class Critiques: Students will present and discuss their work in several class critiques throughout the semester.

Listening Presentations: Students will present representative works by a range of composers in listening sessions throughout the semester.

Final Project: The final project will consist of 5:00 (minimum) work for electronic sound. This may be a CD, 8-channel tape, work for instruments and tape, video, or interactive media. Final compositions due in Professor Fritts's box in 1007 by Tuesday December 16 at 4:00 PM. Late works will result in a lower grade. CDs, ADATs, and scores must be clearly labeled with typed information including: Composer's Name (as you wish it to appear on a program); Title; Duration; Date (day-month-year).

Class Materials: Students should purchase the following: several Zip disks; blank CDs; and a DVD-RAM disk.

Studio Access: Students will be assigned keys to Studios 1 and 2. Schedules will be posted outside each studio door. To receive keys, send an email to Prof. Fritts at lawrence-fritts@uiowa.edu. You will receive further instructions.

Studio Maintenance: The studios should be kept clean at all times. Furniture and equipment should be symmetrically arranged and dust-free. Food and open drinks should not be consumed in the studios. Bottled drinks should be carefully handled. During inclement weather, please wipe your shoes carefully before coming into the building. This will help keep the new carpet clean.

Studio Problems: Please report any problems to Tohm or Jean-Paul as soon as they occur, by sending them an email immediately or by leaving a note outside their office in Room 2059. Problems cannot be fixed unless they know about them, so please contact them immediately and describe the problem clearly.

Microphones: Shure SM57 microphones and cables are kept in a drawer of the desk holding the Moog. These are to be used for in-studio recording and may also be checked out. When checking out a microphone, fill in the check out sheet kept in the mic drawer.

Mini-Disk Recorder: Make arrangements with Tohm or Jean-Paul (not Prof. Fritts) about checking out a mini-disk recorder.

Special Needs: I need to hear from anyone who has a disability, which may require some modification of seating, testing or other class requirements so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please see me after class or during my office hours.

Calendar

- Aug. 25 Introduction to the Studios. Discussion of audio basics.
- Aug. 27 Introduction to **Peak** and **Sound Hack**. Discussion of basic editing and transformations.
- Sept. 1 No class.
- Sept. 3 Introduction to **Pro Tools**. Discussion of recording and the **Edit Window**.
- Sept. 7 **Electronic Music Studios** concert, Sunday 8:00 PM, Clapp Recital Hall.
- Sept. 8 -10 Discussion of editing and mixing techniques in **Pro Tools**.
- Sept. 15-17 Discussion of automation and plug-ins in **Pro Tools**,
- Sept. 22-24 Discussion of reverberation, equalization, and spatialization in **Pro Tools**.
- Sept. 29-Oct. 1 Compositional techniques in electro-acoustic music.
- Oct. 6-8 **Class critiques.**
- Oct. 13 In-class lecture by the **Edison Studio**. Masterclasses TBA.
- Oct. 14 Concert by the **Edison Studio**, Tuesday 8:00 PM, Clapp Recital Hall.
- Oct. 15 No class.
- Oct. 20-22 Compositional techniques in electro-acoustic music. Listening presentations.
- Oct. 27-29 Compositional techniques in electro-acoustic music. Listening presentations.
- Nov. 3-5 **Class critiques.**
- Nov. 7-8 Discussion of MIDI and Fourier analysis. Listening presentations.
- Nov. 10-12 Introduction to **Kyma**, control functions and signal processing. Listening presentations.
- Nov. 17-19 Introduction to **Max** and algorithmic composition. Listening presentations.
- Nov. 24-25 No class.
- Dec. 1-3 **Class critiques.**
- Dec. 8-10 Discussion of related media: composing for video and instruments.
- Dec. 13 Final compositions due in Professor Fritts's box in 1007 by Tuesday December 13 at 4:00 PM. Late works will result in a lower grade. CDs, ADATs, and scores must be clearly labeled with typed information including: Composer's Name (as you wish it to appear on a program); Title; Duration; Date (day-month-year).