

025:250 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA I

Lawrence Fritts

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Office hours: MTW, 1:30-3:30 and after class.

Fall 2005

Staff: Rachel Foote at rachel-foote@uiowa.edu

Paul Alan Brenner at pabrenne@blue.weeg.uiowa.edu

Goals: Students will learn techniques for composing electro-acoustic music through the in-depth exploration of recording, editing, transformation, and mixing with **Pro Tools**, **Peak**, **Sound Hack**, and related software. An overview of two programs, **Kyma** and **Max/MSP** will be given this semester and explored in depth next semester. Next semester will also include an introduction to IRCAM's **Open Music** Composition-Assisted Software. Similarly, an overview of analog processing and synthesis will be given this semester and explored in depth next semester. The course work includes 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 a 5:00 work for electronic sound. Final compositions are 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 or other materials 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). Please turn in two complete versions of your work.

Class Materials: Students should consider purchasing blank CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVD-Rs, and DVD-RWs. Additionally, a keychain drive might be convenient.

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. There is a refundable key deposit of \$100 which will be charged to your U-Bill. Arrangements for this are done in the Main Office.

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.

Studio Problems: Please report any problems to Paul and Rachel 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.

Equipment Check-out: Shure SM57 microphones and cables are kept in a drawer of the desk holding the Moog. To check out a mini-disk recorder and other microphones, please make arrangements with Rachel and Paul.

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.

Class Policies: This course is given by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This means that class policies on matters such as requirements, grading, and sanctions for academic dishonesty are governed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Students wishing to add or drop this course after the official deadline must receive the approval of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Details of the University policy of cross enrollments may be found at: <http://www.uiowa.edu/~provost/deos/crossenroll.doc>.

Calendar

- Aug. 22 Overview of the Studios and the course. Acoustics, file formats.
- Aug. 24 Introduction to the **Mixing Console** and audio routing. Aesthetic considerations.
- Aug. 29-31 Introduction to **Peak** and **Pro Tools**.
- Sept. 4 **Electronic Music Studios** concert: Sunday, Sept. 4, 2005, 8:00 PM Clapp Recital Hall
- Sept. 5 No Class—Labor Day
- Sept. 7 Recording, editing, and mixing in **Pro Tools**.
- Sept. 12-14 Introduction to processing in **Sound Hack** and batch-processing in **Peak**.
- Sept. 19-21 Plug-ins in **Pro-Tools**. Listening Presentations.
- Sept. 26-28 Compositional techniques in electro-acoustic music. Listening Presentations.
- Oct. 3-5 Compositional techniques in electro-acoustic music. Listening Presentations.
- Oct. 10 Introduction to **Max/MSP**.
- Oct. 12 **Class critiques.**
- Oct. 17-19 **Class critiques.**
- Oct. 24 **Class critiques.**
- Oct. 26 Fritts at Bowling Green Festival. Paul: the Moog Synthesizer.
- Oct. 31 Rachel: Introduction to **Kyma**.
- Nov. 2 Spectral Analysis.
- Nov. 7-9 Introduction to digital synthesis; Post-production techniques.
- Nov. 14-16 Mathematics and music.
- Nov. 17 **Electronic Music Studios** concert: Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, 8:00 PM Clapp Recital Hall
- Nov. 21-23 No Class—Thanksgiving Break
- Nov. 28-30 **Class critiques.**
- Dec. 5-7 **Class critiques.**
- Dec. 13 **Final Projects due in Prof. Fritts's box by 4:00 PM Tuesday Dec. 13. Late projects will receive a lower grade. Please turn in 2 versions of your final project.**