

## **025:251 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA II**

Lawrence Fritts

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Office hours: MTW, 12:30-3:30 and after class. Best to email for appointments.

Spring 2008

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Goals: Students will learn advanced technology, techniques, and compositional strategies associated with electronic music. The software used in class includes **Max/MSP** and **Kyma**, in addition to **Pro Tools**, **Peak**, and **Sound Hack**, which were learned in the previous semester of the course. Techniques to be studied include sound recording in an anechoic chamber, spectral analysis and synthesis, algorithmic compositional techniques, and strategies for composing for instruments and fixed media electronics. The course work includes EMS concert participation, in-class listening and discussion, and presentation of assignments and works in progress.

Grading: Grades are based on participation/attendance (10%), assignments (10%), listening presentations (15%), mid-term critique (15%), final critique (15%) and the final composition (35%). Poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

Assignments: Students will complete 3 assignments designed to develop skills in algorithmic composition and spectral analysis/synthesis. These will be presented in class. These assignments will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Aural Analysis Presentation: Each student will present an aural analysis of excerpts totaling 30" of a composition for instrument and electronics. This presentation will be worth 15% of the final grade.

Mid-term Class Critique: Students will present their work for class discussion and critique. This music will be worth 15% of the final grade. Grading will be primarily based on length of the composition presented: 00:45+ = A; 00:30+ = B; 00:15+ = C; 00:00.001+ = D; 00:00 or less = F. Other factors will be quality and concept development, working method, and materials.

Final Class Critique: Students will present their work for class discussion and critique. This music will be worth 15% of the final grade. Grading will be primarily based on length of the composition presented: 3:00+ = A; 2:00+ = B; 1:00+ = C; 00:30+ = D; 00:29 or less = F. Other factors will be quality, originality, and technique.

Final Project: The final project is a 5-minute or longer composition for instrument and fixed electronic media. Grading will be based on quality, originality, and technique. A score is not required. A CD recording of a virtual instrument with tape is due in Prof. Fritts's box in 1007 VMB by 4:00 PM Tuesday, May 13, 2008.

EMS Concerts: Students are expected to attend each EMS concert and to assist with set-up or tear-down. Each concert will count as one class.

Class Materials: Students should consider purchasing storage media. A memory stick is invaluable. A portable firewire drive is also a good idea. Material can be stored in a drawer in Studio 1 or a cabinet in Studio 2. No security is provided.

EMS Hard Drives: Students can use hard drives in Studios 1 and 2. Since these drives are not secure, students are responsible for backing up their work after each session on their own media.

Studio Access: Students will be assigned keys to Studios 1 and 2. Schedules will be posted outside each studio door. To receive keys, see Kathy Reeves in the Main Office. There is a refundable key deposit of \$100 which will be charged to your U-Bill.

Studio Schedules: Students can sign up for studio time on a permanent and weekly basis. Permanent times will be determined in class on Feb. 4.

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. Items left behind after class or studio sessions should be placed in the Studio 1 desk drawer. Extra handouts will also be placed there.

**Studio Problems:** Please report any problems to the assistants as soon as they occur, by sending them an email or by leaving a note outside their office in Room 2059.

**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 the assistants.

**Academic Fraud:** Plagiarism and any other activities that result in a student presenting work that is not his or her own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is reported to the departmental DEO and then to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs and Services in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

[www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic\\_handbook/ix.shtml](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml)

**Making a Suggestion or a Complaint:** Students have the right to make suggestions or complaints and should first visit with the instructor, then with the course supervisor if appropriate, and next with the departmental DEO. All complaints must be made within six months of the incident.

[www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic\\_handbook/ix.shtml#5](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/ix.shtml#5)

**Accommodations for Disabilities:** A student seeking academic accommodations first must register with Student Disability Services and then meet with a SDS counselor who determines eligibility for services. A student approved for accommodations should meet privately with the course instructor to arrange particular accommodations. See

[www.uiowa.edu/~sds/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~sds/)

**Understanding Sexual Harassment:** Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Visit [www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/](http://www.sexualharassment.uiowa.edu/) for definitions, assistance, and the full policy.

**Administrative Home of the Course:** The administrative home of this course is the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, which governs academic matters relating to the course such as the add / drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, issues concerning academic fraud or academic probation, and how credits are applied for various CLAS requirements. Please keep in mind that different colleges might have different policies. If you have questions about these or other CLAS policies, visit your academic advisor or 120 Schaeffer Hall and speak with the staff. The CLAS Academic Handbook is another useful source of information on CLAS academic policy:

[www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic\\_handbook/index.shtml](http://www.clas.uiowa.edu/students/academic_handbook/index.shtml)

## Calendar

Jan. 23-30      Max/MSP: Interface, objects, operations, sound playback and recording.

Feb. 3            **EMS Concert.** 8:00 PM Clapp Recital Hall, free.  
Assistance with set-up or tear-down is required.

Feb. 4            **Sign up for studio time.**

Feb. 4-6         Max/MSP: Randomness, time, and control.

Feb. 11-13      Max/MSP: Communication inside Max/MSP, screen aesthetics.

Feb. 18-20      **Presentations of Assignment #1.**  
Kyma: Intro to interface and spectral analysis.

Feb. 25-27      Kyma: Spectral analysis, synthesis, and morphing.

March 3         **Presentations of Assignment #2.**

March 3-5       Max/MSP: Control issues.

March 10           **Presentations of Assignment #3.**

March 10-12       Max/MSP: Control issues.

March 17-19       Spring Break

March 24-26       **Class critiques.**

March 31           **Class critiques.**

April 2            No Class (Fritts at SEAMUS; the Feb. 3 is in lieu of this class).

April 7            No Class (the April 26 concert is in lieu of this class).

April 9            Kyma: Tuning systems.

April 14-16        Max/MSP: Interactivity.

April 21-23        **Aural Analysis Presentations**  
Max/MSP: Interactivity.

April 26           **EMS Concert.** 3:00 PM Clapp Recital Hall, free.  
Assistance with set-up or tear-down is required.

April 29-30        **Class critiques.**

May 5-7            **Class critiques.**

May 13            **Final Projects due in Prof. Fritts's box by 4:00 PM.**