

025:251 COMPOSITION: ELECTRONIC MEDIA II

Lawrence Fritts

354-8712 home

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

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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, Kyma, Pro Tools, Melodyne, and Peak**. The focus of the course is the creation of a work for instrument and electronics. Techniques to be studied include 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. Since there are two tracks of expertise in Max/MSP, a concerted effort will be made to insure that every student is challenged and will have expectations for the work in the course personally tailored.

Grading: Grades are based on assignments (30%), listening presentations (10%), mid-term critique (30%), final critique (30%). Poor attendance will result in a lower grade.

Attendance: The presentation of the software and its compositional uses will unfold over the entire semester, hence attendance is critical. Please email me as soon as you know that you won't be able to attend class. Please make sure that you attend all critiques, especially when you are not being critiqued.

Assignments: Students will complete 3 assignments designed to develop skills in editing, mixing, and processing. These will be presented in class. Each assignment will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Listening Presentation: Each student will present the music of a composer and lead a discussion in a 15-20 minute presentation with handout. This presentation will be worth 10% of the final grade.

Critiques: Students will present their work for class discussion and critique. The Mid-Term critique and the Final critic are each worth 30% of the final grade.

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.

Studio and Equipment Access: Students can sign up for studio time that will be reserved for the entire semester. They can also sign up for time on a weekly basis. Students can check out microphones, cables, portable recorder, laptop with Digi-002 interface, and headphones. The more equipment is used, the better.

Studio Problems: Please report any problems to the assistants as soon as they occur. The assistants will try to respond to emails from students quickly.

Administrative Home

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is the administrative home of this course and governs matters such as the add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other related issues. Different colleges may have different policies. Questions may be addressed to 120 Schaeffer Hall, or see the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Electronic Communication

University policy specifies that students are responsible for all official correspondences sent to their University of Iowa e-mail address (@uiowa.edu). Faculty and students should use this account for correspondences. (Operations Manual, III.15.2. Scroll down to k.11.)

Accommodations for Disabilities

A student seeking academic accommodations should first register with Student Disability Services and then meet privately with the course instructor to make particular arrangements. See www.uiowa.edu/~sds/ for more information.

Academic Fraud

Plagiarism and any other activities when students present work that is not their own are academic fraud. Academic fraud is a serious matter and is reported to the departmental DEO and to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum. Instructors and DEOs decide on appropriate consequences at the departmental level while the Associate Dean enforces additional consequences at the collegiate level. See the CLAS Academic Fraud section of the Student Academic Handbook.

CLAS Final Examination Policies

Final exams may be offered only during finals week. No exams of any kind are allowed during the last week of classes. Students should not ask their instructor to reschedule a final exam since the College does not permit rescheduling of a final exam once the semester has begun. Questions should be addressed to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs and Curriculum.

Making a Suggestion or a Complaint

Students with a suggestion or complaint should first visit the instructor, then the course supervisor, and then the departmental DEO. Complaints must be made within six months of the incident. See the CLAS Student Academic Handbook.

Understanding Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community have a responsibility to uphold this mission and to contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment should be reported immediately. See the UI Comprehensive Guide on Sexual Harassment for assistance, definitions, and the full University policy.

Reacting Safely to Severe Weather

In severe weather, class members should seek appropriate shelter immediately, leaving the classroom if necessary. The class will continue if possible when the event is over. For more information on Hawk Alert and the siren warning system, visit the Public Safety web site.

Calendar

Jan. 20	Discussion of last semester's work and plans for this semester.
Jan. 25-27	Max/MSP: soundfile manipulations and mathematical operations. Composition: Approaches to instrument and electronics composition.
Feb. 1-3	Max/MSP: Randomness and algorithms.
Feb. 8-10	Assignment #1 presented in class. Kyma: Grain clouds.
Feb. 15-17	Max/MSP: Israel, Additive and FM synthesis
Feb. 22-24	Assignment #2 presented in class. Max/MSP: Matt, envelopes
Feb. 27	EMS Concert, 7:30 PM, Becker Auditorium. Flute and electronics concert.
March 1-3	Assignment #2 presented in class. Max/MSP: Chris, Pitch-tracking.
March 8-10	Assignment #3 presented in class. Max/MSP: Advanced topics.
March 15-17	Spring break.
March 22-24	Pre-critiques.
March 29-31	Mid-term critiques.
April 5	Max/MSP: Advanced topics.
April 7	No class. Fritts at SEAMUS. The Feb. 27 concert is in lieu of this class.
April 12-14	Listening presentations.
April 19-21	Max/MSP: Advanced topics.
April 26-28	Pre-critiques.
May 1	EMS Concert of student works, 7:30 PM, Becker Auditorium.
May 3-5	Final critiques.
May 10-14	Finals Week. Individual meetings, TBA