

Music 169-B

Electro-Acoustic Music Techniques

Spring 2010

Instructor. Jason Mitchell

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Office hours. 6-7p M/W, or by appointment

Credit hours. Two

Classroom. room 65 Allen Hall

Lab. room 74 Allen Hall

Time. 7-8p M/W, plus scheduled lab time

Course Description. This course will provide historical background and technical capabilities for appreciating and composing in the Electro-Acoustic medium. This is designed as an introductory course, covering the basics of modern and classical studio techniques. No background in this medium is required, but it is very helpful to be experienced with computers. The ultimate goal is for the student to complete at least one satisfactory original electro-acoustic composition using the equipment available in the Unit One Electronic Music Studio.

Techniques covered will include the use of MIDI, Digital Audio recording, mixing and editing, and the art of composing using these tools. In addition, this course will offer a review of current electronic music aesthetics, as well as the historical perspective needed to begin working in this medium. We will cover the location of important electro-acoustic studios and relevant schools of electro-acoustic music philosophy.

Required materials. Students will need to purchase CD-R media for their projects and for backing up their work. No textbook is required. Assigned readings will be distributed in class.

Listening and Reading. There will also be listening and reading requirements for this course. They are to help you understand the topics of discussion, and to gain an appreciation for certain electro-acoustic aesthetics. These will be provided in class or in the Studio.

Exams. There will be two exams, based upon historical and technical information from class lectures, the equipment in the Studio, and rules and guidelines associated with the Unit One electro-acoustic music studio. They are 100 points each.

Homework Assignments. There will be numerous homework assignments designed to keep you up to date with the information discussed in class and associated with the studio. Studio assignments will be given for practicing certain studio techniques.

Attendance. Attendance is required. If you are sick, you must contact the instructor the day of class, if possible. Other conflicts must be cleared with the instructor beforehand.

Lateness. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless you seek permission from me before it's due.

Archive. At the end of the semester, all student works will be archived through the online IDEALS project.

Assignments.

Assignments/Participation:	100 pts
Exams (2):	200 pts
Studio Projects (2)	100 pts
Final Studio Project:	100 pts
Final CD Creation	50 pts
	550 pts

Course Outline (subject to change)

Wk. 1: Introduction / Music vs. Noise	Wk. 8: Sound Design / Working with Absynth
Wk. 2: <i>Musique Concrète</i> / Recording	Wk. 9: MIDI
Wk. 3: Sound Reproduction, Microphones	Wk. 10: ProTools and MIDI applications
Wk. 4: Filters, EQ, Reverb, Jacks, and Plugs	Wk. 11: Study 2 Due / Computer Music
Wk. 5: Study 1 Due/Exam 1 Review	Wk. 12: Exam 2 Review / Listening
Wk. 6: Exam 1 / Bouncing to Disk	Wk. 13: Exam 2 /Tour of EMS?
Wk. 7: Synthesizers and Timbre	Wk. 14: Final Project due / Listening
	Wk. 15: Final CD creation