

LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE - MRT/ MUSIC BUSINESS PROGRAM
Electronic Music MRT 373 - Spring 2009
Class Time: MWF (9) 10 -10:50/11 – 11:50 - Classroom: Blair Room 228 (Monday) 218 (Wednesday and Friday)
Instructor: Professor Jeff Snyder
Office: 112 Blair Music Office Complex - Telephone: 867-6277 Office - E-mail: Snyder@Lvc.edu

This syllabus is a general description about the purpose and goals of the class. You should read it through so as to understand the parameters and requirements expected of you. Please ask the instructor about any portion of this syllabus that you do not understand. The instructor retains the right to modify this syllabus at anytime. If this takes place, students will be informed before the modifications are implemented.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This class is an in-depth examination of the history and the application of electronics in musical composition and performance. Topics discussed include: the development of electronic music both in technology and composition; synthesis; and M.I.D.I. technology as used in performance, Internet, and other compositional applications.

The class will consist of both lecture and real time use of electronics in music and sound creation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Define principles, current standards, and common terminology associated with electronic music technologies.
- Have an understanding of the use of various MIDI and sound editing software programs and hardware.
- Identify current and future trends in electronic music technologies.
- Evaluate past and present electronic music compositions.
- Identify opportunities to apply electronic music technologies in self-marketing and commercial use.
- Create various projects that reflect the different uses of electronic music technologies in music and industrial recording.
- Have a working knowledge about MIDI.
- Have a working knowledge about synthetic sound creation.
- Gain an appreciation for the contributions of electronic music composers.

CLASSROOMS:

Mondays, the class meets in room 228 (Studio B). Mondays are lecture days when the theory of EM/DA is discussed. Most of the written exam questions come from these classes, so be sure to take notes.

Wednesdays and Fridays, the class meets in room 218 (Piano Lab). These are hands-on lecture and lab days.

SOFTWARE:

The main program will be ProTools. All programs are provided on the lab computers.

Students should use the software and computers available in the labs. Personal software other than the software used in class is not an option. Incompatibility between personal PCs and lab computers is not a reason for failure to provide required assignments and projects. Using cracked or stolen software to complete assignments will result in assignments being refused with a failure grade given.

HEADPHONES:

Students must bring their own headphones (a necessary tool that any engineer should own). *The headphones in the Piano Lab cannot be used or moved!*

TEXT:

Roback, S. (2007) *PRO TOOLS 7 for Macintosh and Windows*, PeachPit Press.

Aldrich, N. (2005) *Digital Audio Explained: 2nd Edition* Fort Wayne Indiana, Sweetwater Sound

INTERNET:

This syllabus and other related materials can be found at http://lostsurfer.net/lostsurfer.net/DA_EM.html

STORAGE MEDIA:

Students must purchase storage media to be used in class. New media, rather than used media, is highly recommended.

Preferred- USB Thumbdrive/Memory Stick.

Note: A thumbdrive that is formatted for PC will usually be able to be read by a Mac, but it is likely that there will come a time when the data is not recognized by a Mac. Therefore, it is highly recommended that the thumbdrive be initialized for Macintosh, and only used for this class (not used to store papers, documents, email, etc.). These are also easily lost or broken, so be sure to have multiple copies of your data. A project not being presented on time because of a lost, unreadable, or broken thumbdrive will be given a failure grade.

CD-R (CD-RWs will not play digital audio files on standard CD players)

Emailing data to yourself to be downloaded in class is also not an option since the files can be changed, and the size of the files can be very large. Because of college bandwidth limitations, uploading and downloading large audio files doesn't always work.

SAVE OFTEN. BACK UP DATA. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED!

Each student will be cognizant of hard drive space for each computer. A folder will be created in which to store data. Any data outside of the folder may be trashed without warning. The data in the folder can only be in conjunction with sanctioned EM/DA class projects. The instructor reserves the right, at any time, to erase any material on a hard drive that has not been pre-approved for storage or violates college or class policies. There are times when the computer drives may need to be reformatted or erased, so students should always make backup files.

COMPUTERS:

All software for assignments can be found on the iMacs in the Piano Lab. The lab is open for student use most evenings, a key is not needed (or available).

The use of the studios, computers, and hardware is a privilege, not a right. This privilege can be revoked.

If a computer crashes for any reason, simply move to another computer (having backed up your data). Please inform the instructor or lab assistant about any computer problems, in a respectful and calm manner. *Blaming the computers for: incomplete work, not meeting project requirements, lost data, missing deadlines, etc. will not be tolerated.* Do not wait until the last moment to work on projects.

- Please be sensitive with classmates with regards to sharing time.
- The labs MUST be monitored at all times, and doors MUST BE LOCKED whenever it is vacated FOR ANY REASON.
- Using the computers for anything other than MRT program assignments (especially IM, chats, downloads, etc) will result in loss of points and privileges. Stealing software is considered unlawful. Changing/altering the operating systems (including the screen parameters such as background, dock location and size, resolution, etc) *will result in loss of points and privileges.*
- Never install or remove software from a computer without prior approval from Mr. Hill or Mr. Snyder.
- You will be held responsible for any destruction, alteration, or theft of school property during the time that you use the studios or labs. Your grades and or graduation will be suspended until legal or financial restitution is made.
- Do NOT move or reconnect school property without prior permission. If permission is granted, you are required to put the property back in the condition that it was found.
- Please keep the studios in neat and clean conditions. Turn off all equipment and put away headphones, etc. when you are finished. Failure to do so will result in suspension of access.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- * Class participation is required. Contributions to discussions may be figured into the final grade.
- * The classroom door may be locked at the time class is scheduled to begin. Therefore, all latecomers will be considered absent for the day.
- * This is a project-intensive course. Self-initiative in learning new software programs and content creation is imperative.
- * Deadlines will be firmly enforced.
- * Failure to meet deadlines will result in a 0 grade for the assignments.
- * Late assignments will not be accepted unless previous permission by instructor is granted.
- * Civil behavior is expected from all students.
- * Disrespect shown for classmates or instructor *will result in being immediately removed from the class until the Dean states otherwise.*
- * Students are expected to remain quiet and respectfully pay attention to student and instructor discussions or presentations.
- * Whispering, private conversations, studying for other classes, and any other distractions or rude displays while the instructor or fellow students discuss or present course material will be considered to be disrespectful and may result in expulsion from the classroom and grade penalties.
- * Packing up books and other distractions before the class is dismissed will be considered to be disrespectful.
- * Drunkenness or coming to class 'under the influence' will result in expulsion from the class until the Dean states otherwise.

TESTING:

The possible points for each test, assignment, report, etc., are listed below:

- There will be one major written test for this course: mid-term exam.
- The instructor may give pop quizzes at anytime.
- Individual student exercises will be graded based on quality, creativity, following instructions, and initiative.
- The value will be given at the time of the assignment.
- Test material will come from reading and class discussions. Take Notes!

Grading will be based on the following assessments:

- * 2 Projects = 100 points each
- * Mid-term exam = 100 points
- * pop exam (if applicable) = 50 points
- Total = 300 possible points (+ any pop exams).

Standards for Evaluation Number-to-Letter Conversion:

0-59 F, 60-62 D-, 63-66 D, 67-69 D+, 70-72 C-, 73-76 C, 77-79 C+, 80-82 B-, 83-86 B, 87-89 B+, 90-92 A-, 93-100 A

- A = excellent, B = above average, C = average, D = below average, F = failing
- Grades will be presented not as letter grades, but as the quality they represent.
- The instructor retains the privilege of changing the number of exams and point values.

- The final grade will be calculated by taking the total points of all assignments and tests, and comparing the total possible to the total points earned.

PROJECTS:

Learning about MIDI, synthesis, and software is up to the *self-initiative* of each student. Projects are given as introductions to various aspects of electronic music. Completing the minimum requirements for projects will result in average grades.

Time

- * Though time may be allowed in class for working on projects, the bulk of the work could take place outside of class.
- * Students must anticipate time and computer demands and start projects as soon as possible.
- * Students are encouraged to work on projects or become familiar with software while the instructor is available in case of problems or questions, especially when given time in class.
- * When time is allowed to work on projects in class, students are expected to stay and use that time to work on their projects. If students are also using private computers, then they should bring the files with them to use in class. Students are excused from this if they have finished their projects, in which case the project should then be turned in before leaving early.
- * Time must be anticipated for simply learning the software. Trying to learn the software and creating the project the night before the due date will usually, at best, result in average work. The instructor will not be impressed with all-nighters because of waiting till the last moment.

Individual Projects

- * Projects will not be accepted after given deadlines and a 0 will be given as a grade.
- * Usually, the project will be presented to the class.
- * In some projects, the class may judge the projects. (The instructor retains the right to disallow peer grades that are skewed or not honest appraisals of a classmate's project.)
- * It is up to each student to determine *before* a class presentation of a project whether the project will play and be displayed properly.
- * Failure to *meet all requirements and expectations* of the assignment will result in a failing grade for the project.
- * Did I mention that projects will not be accepted after given deadlines?

ATTENDANCE:

Though there is not an attendance requirement for this class, Attendance will be monitored.

- You are responsible for all material discussed in class.
 - You are responsible for all assignments given in class.
 - There will be no make-up presentations except for the conditions stated below.
 - There will be no make-up exams except for the conditions stated below.
 - Consistent attendance may be a factor in borderline grades (I will notice if you miss class).
 - Three or more unexcused absences may result in being reported to the Dean as an early-warning report.
 - Classes will be held in both 228 (Studio B) and the piano Lab. The instructor will announce any changes.
 - Do not ask the instructor to show software, discuss assignments, or review material missed because of skipping a class - except for the following reasons:
- * Illness verified by the instructor.
 - * Family emergency (verified by the Dean of Students).
 - * Inclement weather (classes canceled)

Tardiness:

Tardiness will not be tolerated. As juniors, you must learn to be prompt as you prepare for the 'real-world'.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACT:

The instructor's office hours are posted on the door of his office and Webpage. Though students may try to drop by for consultation, it is highly recommended that appointments be made. Arranging an appointment is best achieved by stating in E-mail, or in discussion before or after class, the purpose of the appointment and possible times to meet. *The instructor is more than willing to meet with any student that wishes to speak to him.* Students *must* take the initiative to meet the instructor to discuss any class or personal issues. If a student has issues with the way a class is taught or the instructor, he/she should take the initiative to talk to the instructor. This is the only way the instructor can possibly address specific issues and explain the reasoning or make adjustments to the class and instruction.

- Reading assignments will be given in class and/or posted on the Webpage.
- Sufficient time will be allowed in covering subject material or software. If a student doesn't feel that enough time has been devoted to a subject, then the student should let the instructor know so that he'll provide more time/explanation.
- Guests that are involved in the creation of electronic music may be asked to visit the class for presentation and discussion
- Sufficient time will be allowed for the presentation of projects.
- Some classes will be devoted to lab-work and the instructor will monitor the progress of understanding and use of the software by each student.

The general order of subjects covered will be based on three sections:

- MIDI

- Synthesis
- Electronic Music pioneers

The EM portion of the semester will end (except for the final performance) at mid-term. The MRT 374-Digital Audio portion of the semester will begin after the mid-term exam.

It is the responsibility of the student to read and understand this syllabus. If a student does not understand any portion of this syllabus, the instructor will be glad to answer any questions. If a student does not ask questions, the instructor will assume that the student understands and agrees to the requirements as stated. If a student does not agree to the class parameters as set forth in the syllabus, the student must withdraw from the class the first week of the semester.

PT = ProTools Book DA= Digital Audio book

ass	Topic	Book Reference	lab
W January	Syllabus, class parameters. Mac introduction. electronic music examples.	Practice short cuts. Mac basics. MIDI module (JV1010)	
F January	Introduction to MIDI hookups/systems I/O. Setting up Mac for MIDI.	p. 435 (PT) MIDI interface In Out Thru Audio MIDI Setup Patch name setup.	
M January	MIDI Bits and Bytes	pp. 428 – 430 (PT) webpage	
W January	Introduction to Pro Tools (MIDI)	Screen overview-edit (49-50)/mix (30-31) screens. Transport controls (135-136). Create session (63-70). Create MIDI tracks (432-433). MIDI channel strip (34). Metronome (443). Record MIDI (449). Playback MIDI (441). Loop recording (450-452). MIDI overdub.	
F January	Editing MIDI	Regions in bin (460-461). Edit window views (462-463). Mirror MIDI edits (646). Tools (54-56). Track controls (50). Edit modes (52). Zoom buttons (53). Manual editing (466-473).	
M bruary 2	MIDI commands/control changes/System messages.	Webpage	
W bruary 4	Editing MIDI (cont.).	MIDI commands applications. MIDI events (478-480)	
F February	Project assignment. Regions/tempo/meter/CCs	Begin projects.	
M bruary 9	Modes / system commands / CC list / SYSEX	Webpage.	
- W bruary 11	SYSEX / Standard MIDI files / General MIDI. Work on projects	SMF (455-457). Import/export SMF. SMFs online.	
- F bruary 13	Alternative controllers / gtr synth, pads, etc. Work on projects		
- M bruary 16	MIDI machine control, MIDI sync. Wrap up MIDI. Synthesis. Subtractive / additive / PM		
- W bruary 18	Project 1 due. Virtual Instruments. Recording MIDI hardware audio. Recording virtual instrument audio. Project assignment. Begin project.	Webpage. Using your MIDI project – ‘fly’ in MIDI tracks (137-141). Virtual instrument plug-in recording (432-433, 388). Bouncing tracks (418-422). Burning CD (iTunes).	
- F bruary 20	Synthesis cont. Work on project.	Webpage	
- M bruary 23	EM heroes. Stockhausen, Busoni, Futurists, etc. Work on project.	Webpage.	
- W bruary 25	Midterm exam. Work on project.		
- F bruary 27	Project 2 due/presentations		
- M March	SPRING BREAK	Midterm grades turned in	
- W March	SPRING BREAK		
- F March	SPRING BREAK		
- M March	DIGITAL AUDIO BEGINS		

THIS IS A GENERAL SCHEDULE OF TOPICS COVERED. CHANGES IN DAYS AND SUBJECTS WILL LIKELY BE MADE.

EM SURVEY 2009

Name:

Computer workstation number:

Scale of 1-5 (1=nothing)...rate your knowledge of MIDI_____

Scale of 1-5 (1=never)...how much do you use MIDI?_____

Scale of 1-5...rate your knowledge of synthesis_____

Scale of 1-5...rate your knowledge of using Macintosh_____

What brand computer do you own (Mac, PC, and the OS)?

What MIDI/music software do you own and use?

What MIDI hardware do you have, and also scale how much you use each piece?