Course Calendar Description

Electro-acoustic music: Continued study of the terminology and technology of electronic music. Historical development, musique concrète, the "classical" studio, the synthesizer, and computer applications. Survey of the literature with some analysis. Compositional techniques and notation peculiar to electronic music and its real time performance.

Prerequisite(s):
Music 2695A/B, Music 2629, or permission of the department

Extra Information: 3 hours, 1.0 course

Please note that prerequisites are no longer automatically checked prior to course registration. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that he or she has the specified prerequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Meetings
- Lecture Tuesday 1:30-3:30 CEARP, TC344C
- Tutorial TBD TBD CEARP, TC344C

Instructor Dr. Jason Stanford jstanfo@uwo.ca TC 334
Office Hours: TBD by class schedule survey
Also by individual appointment

Graduate Assistant Aaron Lee jlee993@uwo.ca TC331

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will not only be able to discuss, in detail, technical and technological notions related to the use of technology in music applications, but they will also have gained transferable skills in the application of specific technologies through the creation of original compositions for instruments and/or voices combined with electro-acoustic sound or live electro-acoustic sound processing.

Through hands-on practical assignments and projects students will gain a high level of proficiency and technical fluency in utilizing software and hardware within the CEARP studio and in the staging of the year-end electro-acoustic music concert.

Students will gain a deeper understanding of significant electro-acoustic music compositions from the repertoire through listening, discussion, and analysis.

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Course Activities

The activities of the course will include active reduced listening, discussion, and analysis of repertoire and recordings, weekly in-class presentations of assignments and work-in-progress, small weekly compositional etudes, a written/aural test, two major term compositions, and the presentation of one of these major compositions live in concert.

Compositions

Most time and energy will be spent on the composition of two major electro-acoustic works, one during first term, and one during second term. Each composition will include a live performance element. Compositions will be undertaken individually by each student in consultation with the instructor and TA.

For each piece, in addition to all audio files, Pro Tools Sessions, and Max patches, students will submit a bound score (if appropriate) that includes fully notated music for instrumentalists/vocalists, graphics/tablature for real-time control MIDI controllers and/or synthesizers, technical details and instructions including: diagrams of staging, control/signal schematics and an explanation of all data and signal processing utilized in the work.

Electroacoustic Music Concert

Students are required to participate in the setup and sound check for the Electroacoustic Music Concert in April 4, 2017 at 6:00pm. Students are also required to participate in the moving of gear from CEARP to PDT, the setup, the sound check, and the dress rehearsal prior to the concert and to also assist in the striking and moving of gear to CEARP after the concert. Setup and dress rehearsal will commence at 8am on the day of the concert in Paul Davenport Theatre. Students will be responsible for promoting the event. This is an all-day activity and will take place from approximately 8am to 10pm.

Studio Time

Each student will be able to reserve at least 6 hours/week of studio time for independent work. Additional studio time can be signed up for on a first come, first served basis. Students can sign-up for time on the TC344C Schedule on OWL.

Attendance is mandatory (10% of final grade) and will ensure adequate student progress in this course. Students are required to sign an attendance sheet for the Tuesday 2-hour lecture and a TBD 1-hour tutorial session each week. Attendance is taken at every meeting, and students are required to initial on the attendance form.

A written/listening test will be given in Week 19 in the second semester. You may be quizzed or tested on anything I say in class. Students will be tested on key historical, theoretical, and technological concepts, and each listening portion of each test may require students to identify compositions by: composer, title of composition, date of composition, and any number of unique, novel, or interesting features of the composition.
The key to success in this course is regular work, if you invest the time, you will understand key concepts and be able to effectively apply these concepts to your own work.

Assignments may be given verbally, or in writing during lectures, and may include quizzes on terminology/comprehension. Some assignments may include a library and/or web research component. Some assignments require students to demonstrate skill and facility in the use of specific hardware and/or software.

Please do not underestimate the time required to master hardware and software concepts to the point of being able to wield these resources creatively. Progress comes from regular work, from signing-up and utilizing your available time in CEARP. Believe me when I say that you cannot cram in order to demonstrate creative or technical facility through hardware/software.

Course Materials and Resources

Textbooks
There is no textbook for this course, rather, any readings will be drawn from a variety of different resources, and will be available on course reserve in the Music Library in the Music3695 course binder, sent to students via email, and/or made available online.

Notebooks
There will be a lot of hand-outs for this class, and to keep these hand-outs together, please utilize a 3-ring binder.

In addition to a binder, you will find that a notebook will come in handy to jot down important points from lectures/tutorials, as well as to keep a record of your own technical and creative experiments. Notebooks work best when entries are clearly dated.

A class notebook is an important learning tool, since it will contain:
- Salient points about techniques, methods, musical works, and other concepts presented and discussed during lectures
- Your own proposals and/or objectives – the purpose of your work session in the IMC or CEARP: what concepts you wish to explore or what goals you wish to attain during each studio session
- observations, thoughts, considerations, hypotheses, conclusions
- results of experimentation: what ideas worked, what ideas did not work, what outcomes were achieved
- new proposals/objectives/hypotheses to test based upon new evidence
- what to try or explore during the next session
- An activity journal of your technical and creative will aid students in troubleshooting and debugging techniques, you will be able to look back and see your charted progress over the course of the semester

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Listening List
The entire listening list for the course will be available on the Mac Pro in the CEARP studio on as uncompressed .WAV audio files.

Hardware and software manuals in PDF format are most often located on the manufacturer's website, or available as HELP files/tutorial files within the programs themselves.

Storage Media
Unexpected hardware/software failures can and do occur without warning – regular backup of data is mandatory. The University will not be responsible for damaged or lost data. Typical requirements per student may include a selection of the following: USB memory stick (USB3 large capacity – 16-32GB are inexpensive to purchase).

Optional Materials

Software
Most of the practical and creative work of this course is completed using either: the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) Avid Pro Tools, or in the object-oriented programming environment Max/MSP by Cycling’74.

Although you are not required to purchase either title for the course, as both are available for use in CEARP, it is encouraged that students at least purchase their own license of Max/MSP.


Max/MSP is available for purchase at deeply discounted academic pricing ($250 US for the bundle) or you can purchase a 12-month student license for only $59 US, or $9.99 US/month. https://auth.cycling74.com/purchase#educational

Requirements, Dates, and Evaluation

Compositions will be graded 50/50 on technical and creative merits. Grading of compositions will take into account the creativity and originality of the project in regards to the treatment of form, structure, register, sonority, etcetera, as well as the level of sophistication and refinement in the use of hardware and software within the composition.

- Composition I (approximately 5 minutes) 20%
- Composition II (approximately 5-10 minutes) 30%
- Compositional Etudes, written/aural quizzes, other written assignments, studies, worksheets, if any 30%
- Written/aural test 10%
- Attendance, Preparation, Participation 10%

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Consultation with the Instructor during the process of composition is a requirement. The Instructor must see sufficient work-in-progress especially as deadlines of the term and concert approach. Students can utilize regular office hours, and additional times are available upon request, subject to the availability of the Instructor.

**Late Submission Policy**

Late written work, Max/MSP patches, and Pro Tools sessions, will only be accepted under the circumstances listed below.

Compositions will only be accepted after the due dates under extenuating circumstances, including documented medical or compassionate grounds, or if accommodation has been requested and received prior to the due date. Unfortunately, a Term Composition that is submitted late cannot be included on the Electroacoustic Music Concert, the student will lose a very important practical learning opportunity, and as a result, a lower grade.

**Notes**

1.) Absence from tests will only be excused if satisfactory medical documentation is provided, or the equivalent for non-medical or compassionate grounds, is submitted to the Faculty of Music Academic Counseling Office, Talbot College (TC210).

2.) Please see assignment handout for policies on late submission and accommodation, and refer to the University’s policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm

3.) Students are expected to complete all assignments and projects independently. The submission of work with which you have received assistance from someone else (other than the course instructor) is an example of plagiarism. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

4.) Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Studio and Technical Support Policies and Procedures**

Only students enrolled in Music 3695 are permitted to be in CEARP, no other individuals are to be permitted access to CEARP with you. Instrumental musicians who are performing your works (or are participating in a sound recording session for 3695 projects) are permitted in the studio.

Students must be respectful and considerate of their fellow colleagues by leaving the studio/lab in a clean and usable condition for the next user, and report any hardware/software technical problems immediately.
***Absolutely*** no food or liquids are allowed in CEARP. Unexpected spills can end the life of an expensive piece of studio hardware while food and crumbs attract insects and rodents.

**Technology**

Please turn off all mobile devices during lectures. Laptops or tablets are only permitted if they are being used as study aids, and if prior accommodation for their use has been requested and granted.

**Logbook**

CEARP has a logbook, and you are required to sign-in and sign-out in the logbook every time you use CEARP. The logbook has space for user comments related to the technical operations of the lab. If equipment fails, please:

1) enter general information about the malfunction into the log book
2) report the malfunction by immediately emailing the instructor

While equipment is in service, it is usually unavailable for use, during which time students are expected to pursue related kinds of artistic investigation and experimentation in the studio.

**Safety Information**

If a small fire starts in the vicinity of TC344C and is no larger than a basketball, turn off the two switches that power the equipment; you may attempt to extinguish the fire with the fire extinguisher or by smothering it. If the fire is not limited to a small area, or if you are unfamiliar or unsure how to use a fire extinguisher, or if you have failed in your attempt to extinguish a small fire, you should get out and stay out. Never enter a room if you suspect a fire inside. Upon detection of smoke and/or fire, follow the **R-A-C-E** plan:

- Rescue/Remove person(s) from the immediate fire scene/room
- Alert personnel by activating the nearest fire alarm pull station and call 9-1-1
- Confine fire and smoke by closing all doors in the area
- Extinguish a small fire by using portable fire extinguisher or use to escape larger fire

Evacuate the building immediately and, once outside, report to your supervisor, Building Emergency Team, or Emergency Personnel.

The local First-Aid Station (for minor injuries) is located in the Music Library.
Important Dates

2016

September 5  Labour Day.
September 8  Fall/Winter Term classes begin
September 15  Deadline to apply for relief against a final grade in a Summer Day course.
September 16  Last day for late registration.

Last day to add a full course, a first-term half course, a first-term full course, or a full-year half course on campus and Distance Studies.

October 10  Thanksgiving Holiday. (University is Closed)
October 15  Deadline to apply for relief against a final grade in a Spring/Summer Distance Studies course.

October 27-28  Fall Study Break (no classes – IMC Lab is open)
November 5  Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2016-17 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty.

November 30  Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course [on campus day and evening and Distance Studies] without academic penalty.

December 7  Fall/Winter Term classes end.
December 8-9  Study Days.
December 10-21  Mid-year examination period.
December 22  First term ends for all Faculties except Dentistry, Education, Law and Medicine.
Music 3695 - Electroacoustic Music Composition
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
2016-2017

2017

January 5  Classes resume.
January 13  Last day to add a second-term half-course, or a second term full course
January 31  Deadline to apply for relief against a final grade in a first-term course
February 20  Family Day (holiday)
February 20-24  Reading Week (no classes, campus is open, CEARP is open)
March 7  Last day to drop a second-term half course, or a second-term full course without academic penalty

April 4  Music 3695/Music 5633Y – Electro-Acoustic Music Concert – Paul Davenport Theatre 6:00pm
April 7  Fall/Winter Term classes end
April 8  Study Day
April 9-30  Final Exam Period
April 14  Good Friday
April 16  Easter Sunday