

**Course Syllabus**  
**MUS 468.04: Electronic Music**  
**T/Th 2:00-3:30 a.m., Spring 2005**  
**Music Building, Room 101A**

Instructor: Thomas Couvillon, Ph. D.

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Office hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 p.m., TTH 9:30-10:30, or by appointment.

**Materials on Reserve**

- Adams, Robert, *Electronic Music Composition for Beginners*, 2nd ed.
- Wagner, Michael, *Introductory Musical Acoustics*, 3rd ed.

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the composition of electronic music. Topics covered will include: fundamentals of acoustics and sound synthesis, MIDI terminology and techniques, MIDI and audio hardware, sequencing, patch editing, digital sound editing software, video scoring and concepts and techniques relating to composing in electronic media.

**Course Objectives**

1) To gain a understanding of the acoustical basis of musical sounds, 2) to acquire a basic understanding of the hardware and software used in the composition of electronic music, 3) to create short compositions that demonstrate a sampling of the possibilities of the electronic media.

**Attendance**

Regular and punctual attendance will be expected of you throughout the semester. University policy permits three (excused or unexcused) absences without penalty (except for announced tests). Reserve these for possible emergency or illness. For each additional unexcused absence, 5% will be deducted from your final grade. Valid excuses include official university functions, serious illness or family emergency with an acceptable explanation/ note. You are responsible for all assignments and material covered on the days of your absence. **Attendance is the most significant factor affecting your success in this course.**

**Assignments and Composition Projects**

Student progress during the semester will be evaluated through small assignments, studio presentation. This course will be taught in studio class format where students will be required to share their "works in progress" with the class on a regular basis.

The remainder of the course grade will be determined by three major assignments. These assignments will be given a suggested due date and a final due date. **Assignments not turned in by the final due date will be given a grade of F.**

The midterm composition project will of a short piece or etude (ca. 2') that will demonstrate basic MIDI and sequencing skills. Students will then complete a

project where they score a short video. The final composition project will be a complete piece of at least 5 min. duration that will include custom synthesizer patches and digital audio effects. The student composition projects will be performed in a public concert at the end of the semester.

**Grading**

Assignments and Small Projects:	30%
Midterm Composition Project:	20%
Video Scoring Project	20%
Final Composition Project:	30%

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Consultation between students about general concepts is allowed, but copying and/or collaboration on assignments is cheating and will be dealt with severely.

**Grading Scale**

For the final grade, the following grading scale will be used:

90 - 100%	A
80 - 89%	B
70 - 79%	C
60 - 69%	D
0 - 59%	F

**Course Outline**

Units	Materials Covered
I – Introduction/Orientation	Studio Policies/Proceedures, Studio Tour, Basics of Synthesis / Audio / MIDI
II – MIDI/Sequencing	MIDI techniques, Studio Vision Pro Software
III – Synthesis / Patch Management	Synthesis Types/Techniques, Unisyn Patch Editor
IV – Digital Audio Editing / Electronic Composition	Digital Performer and Other Digital Sound File Processing Software Video Scoring

**Studio Policies**

Due to the security issues inherent in working with valuable equipment, the following studio policies must be adhered to.

1. Students are responsible for making sure that the studio key is returned to the locker at the end of their session and that both the studio and the locker are both secured. Make sure to pull the studio door all the way shut.
2. Do not allow anyone who is not in the class to use or stay in the studio for any reason.
3. Do not remove any equipment, software, or manuals from the studio without the permission of the instructor.

4. Do not tamper with any of the files or settings on the computer or install additional software without the permission of the instructor.

5. Do not use the equipment in the studio for non-course related activities without specific permission from the instructor.

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## University Policies

### **University Policy on Academic Dishonesty:**

The Faculty Handbook states that the University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Furthermore, the University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials

### **Proper Classroom Demeanor/Rules of Conduct:**

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and /or pager before class begins. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

### **Americans with Disabilities Act:**

According to University policy, requests for accommodations must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should go to the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Every semester that the student desires accommodations, it is the student's responsibility to complete a Classroom Accommodation Request Form at the SSD office and follow the stated procedure in notifying faculty. Accommodations for disabled students are decided based upon documentation and need on a case-by-case basis by the Counseling Center

### **Religious Holidays:**

University policy states that a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day after the first day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day.