

Electroacoustic Music II

MUS 333 01

4 credits

Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 – 10:45 AM

Location: Benildus 245 - Computer Lab

Instructor: Steven M. Miller

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Overview

A continuation of MUS 332, this course will simultaneously focus on the aesthetic and musical considerations of electroacoustic media as well as on developing the requisite theoretical knowledge and practical technical facility with the tools and resources of electroacoustic music. This dual focus will provide an appropriate historical, aesthetic, and technical basis to support further exploration into composition and performance with electro-acoustic media.

This semester the focus is on programming for musical uses in the Max/MSP programming environment. Building on skills and knowledge gained with the analog modular system and multi-track studio techniques, we will migrate the activity to within a computer software & hardware system. Max/MSP is particularly suited to creating interactive programs and virtual instruments for live performance. Continuing the ideas of patch cord signal flow and modules optimized for specific tasks, we will broaden the resources to include MIDI control and real-time digital audio.

Required Texts

Todd Winkler, *Composing Interactive Music*, MIT Press 1998

Joel Chadabe, *Electric Sound; The Past and Promise of Electronic Music*, Prentice Hall 1997

Other readings on reserve or online, as assigned.

Assignments & Projects

In addition to the readings and in-class discussion, midterm exam and a final exam, each student will do 2 short in-class presentations, a mid-term project, and a final project. The details of these follow.

Presentation 1 – Overview of midterm project, including functionality, control interface, programming problems encountered. Student will turn in outline of presentation.

Midterm Project – Interactive MIDI Instrument. Will consist of an extensive modification of one or more of the tutorial patches developed into a live performance instrument with MIDI control input & MIDI output to sound source (synth, etc.). Student will turn in:

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Syllabus

working Max patch; 2-3 page paper describing the software and the compositional and/or performance uses of it the student envisions; printed instruction sheet on how to operate the patch; a short (1-2 minute) audio recording of the use of the patch. All these components will be submitted on a CD-ROM: 1 Max patch, 2 MSWord files, 1 AIFF file.

Presentation 2 – Overview of final project, including functionality, control interface, synthesis/dsp method(s), programming problems encountered. Student will turn in outline of presentation.

Final Project – Interactive Synthesis/DSP Instrument. Will consist of an extensive original patch developed into a live performance instrument with MIDI control input & real-time synthesis/dsp output. Student will turn in: working Max patch; 2-3 page paper describing the software and the compositional and/or performance uses of it the student envisions; printed instruction sheet on how to operate the patch; a short (1-2 minute) audio recording of the use of the patch. All these components will be submitted on a CD-ROM: 1 Max patch, 2 MSWord files, 1 AIFF file.

Grading

All students will be responsible for completing assigned readings and projects and fully participating in all class discussions. While acknowledging and allowing for special circumstances, students are expected to complete assignments in a timely manner. All assignments will be typed/printed. Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the due date. Late assignments will receive half-credit.

Presentation 1	10%
Presentation 2	10%
Midterm Project	20%
Final Project	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>20%</u>
Semester Grade	100%

Americans With Disabilities Act

The College of Santa Fe makes every effort to provide appropriate accommodations for students with documented disabilities in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Students may receive the accommodations if they contact their professor and register at the Center for Academic Excellence with the Disabilities Service Coordinator.

Note: All reasonable attempts will be made to adhere to the schedule & information in this syllabus. However, the instructor reserves the right to make accommodations & adaptations based on class progress, special opportunities, as well as occurrences outside the instructor's control.