

SCHOOL OF FINE ART AND MUSIC
Winter Semester 2016
MUSC*2220-01
ELECTRONICA: MUSIC IN THE DIGITAL AGE



INSTRUCTOR: Cam McKittrick
TIME: Tuesday/Thursday 4-5:20pm
LOCATION: MacKinnon Building, Rm. 107
OFFICE: Alexander Hall, Rm. 072A
PHONE: Ext. 56604
EMAIL: cmckittr@uoguelph.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday/Thursday 1-2pm or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will provide an introduction to digital music, from the initial “cybernetic” experiments of the 1950s, to the evolution of software tools for synthesizing, processing, and analyzing sound, to the development of music/audio-related hardware such as digital synthesizers, samplers, recorders, mixers, and workstations. An overview of musical genres utilizing digital technology will be presented (experimental, techno, dance, rap, ambient, etc.). Digital technology, including the revolutionary MIDI protocol, will be set into historical context, looking at musical and social developments and milestones, as well as related non-digital technology such as analog synthesizers and multi-track recorders.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The objective of this course is to gain an understanding of the historical development of digital music. This history will be examined on the basis of technological innovations, cultural/sociological considerations, and musical/aesthetic issues. Readings from the assigned texts will supplement lecture presentations including recordings and video/visual examples. Students will be required to listen to a variety of recordings, and will be expected to develop listening skills in order to distinguish music of different styles and eras. Students will have the opportunity to study a particular topic in depth in a term research paper. Broad knowledge of the materials presented will be assessed by means of quizzes (based on written material and listening examples).

University learning objectives addressed in the course include: literacy (readings, research paper), sense of historical development (readings, lectures, listening), aesthetic maturity (evaluative skills for listening, research project), understanding of forms of inquiry (readings, listening), depth and breadth of understanding (all aspects of the course), independence of thought (listening, research), love of learning (combining historical study with particular interest in this subject matter).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

To give the student an understanding of the context for digital music through a survey of the history and recorded literature of electronic and experimental music.

Aims:

- To understand the social and cultural context and aesthetic concerns of many of the practices of electronic and experimental music
- To trace the evolution of musical roles in electronic and experimental music
- To listen to historically important and significant exemplars of electroacoustic work of all styles and practices

REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Holmes, Thom: *Electronic and Experimental Music: Pioneers in Technology and Composition*, 3rd ed. (Routledge, 2008)
2. Moorefield, Virgil: *The Producer as Composer* (MIT Press, 2005)

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Reading Quizzes (administered through Courselink):

- 1) posted Monday, February 23, 2016 (closes March 4, 2016) 15%
- 2) posted Friday, March 25 (closes April 8, 2016) 15%

Listening Quizzes:

- 1) Thursday, February 4, 2016 10%
- 2) Thursday, March 17, 2016 10%
- 3) Thursday, March 31, 2016 15%

Creative Audio Project:

- 1) Thursday, Feb 26, 2016 15%

Research Paper:

- 1) Thursday, March 31, 2016 20%

E-mail Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <mail.uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. [See the undergraduate calendar for information on regulations and procedures for Academic Consideration.](#)

Drop Date

The last date to drop one-semester courses, without academic penalty, is **Friday, 11 March 2016**. For [regulations and procedures for Dropping Courses](#), see the [Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Copies of out-of-class assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

Accessibility

The University of Guelph is committed to creating a barrier-free environment. Providing services for students is a shared responsibility among students, faculty and administrators. This relationship is based on respect of individual rights, the dignity of the individual and the University community's shared commitment to an open and supportive learning environment. Students requiring service or accommodation, whether due to an identified, ongoing disability or a short-term disability should contact Student Accessibility Services as soon as possible. For more information, contact SAS at 519-824-4120 ext. 56208 or email csd@uoguelph.ca or see the [website](#).

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Each student at the University of Guelph has rights which carry commensurate responsibilities that involve, broadly, being a civil and respectful member of the University community. [The Rights and Responsibilities are detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar](#)

Academic Misconduct

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct. Students need

to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor. [The Academic Misconduct Policy is detailed in the Undergraduate Calendar.](#)

Recording of Materials

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

Resources

The [Academic Calendars](#) are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.