

MUSI 4373: ELECTRONIC MUSIC (CRN 22010)

TTH 2:00 – 3:20 p.m., SPRING 2018 ; CREDIT: 3 HRS.
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
MUSIC BUILDING 101A

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructor: John Crabtree, B.M., M.M., D.M.A.
Office: Music Building 320

Email: jmc001@shsu.edu
Office hours: TTH by appointment

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- At least 1GB (4GB recommended) Flash Drive, or several blank CD-R or CD-RW discs for data and/or audio recording (see instructor for obtaining Flash Drives at a reduced cost)
- Access to the internet and an active SHSU email address
- Binder for handouts and other resources

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS AND RESOURCES

There are no specific textbooks for this course. However, there are some required readings that will be assigned from several of the sources below (texts will be available in the Electronic Music Lab as needed).

- *Electric Sound* by Joel Chadabe
- *Computer Music* by Charles Dodge and Thomas Jerse
- *The Computer Music Tutorial* by Curtis Rhodes
- *ProTools 101 Official Courseware* by Digidesign and Frank Cook

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

MUSI 4373 is a basic introduction to the techniques, theory, and composition of electroacoustic music. Students will explore the fundamentals of acoustics, recording techniques, sound synthesis, audio manipulation, and computer hardware/software applications as they relate to producing, editing, and finalizing audio sound, as well as experience the creative process involved in electroacoustic music creation through projects and compositions. Students should gain a basic understanding of the acoustical basis of musical sounds, become familiar and comfortable with audio recording equipment and recording techniques, and acquire a hands-on understanding of hardware and software used in the composition of electronic music. They will also be exposed to the creative compositional process of electronic music and electronic media.

FACILITIES AND ACCESS

The course work for this class will take place in the Electronic Music Studio (101A Music Building). The studio is equipped with: several Digital Audio Workstation PCs, a variety of electronic instruments, MIDI capabilities, analog and digital recording equipment, sound reinforcement (up to 4 channels), and many software programs related to audio production. We will use a variety of software for this class, but primary focus will be on using Avid's ProTools, an industry standard in audio production. Students will also be able to record and edit onto an appropriate media for storage and performance. The studio does NOT have internet access (this is a work studio - not a place where you check personal emails and websites). All studio software programs run under Windows operating systems. If you have a PC at home, as well as the software, you can do some work outside the studio. Except for ProTools LE and version 11, Reason, and MAX/MSP, most programs are available through shareware and freeware. If you do not have a home computer, you should plan on spending no less than 3-4 hours a week in the studio. Regardless of your home computer status, you will need to spend at least 1-2 hours per week in the studio. As a registered student in MUSI 4373, you - but you only - have unlimited access to the electronic music studio. You may use the lab at any time except (1) when the building is closed, and (2) when another instructor is using the room for class purposes. These restricted times will be made available when class schedules are finalized.

ATTENDANCE

Because of the limited space and schedule for this course, regular and punctual attendance will be expected of you throughout the semester. In fact, a system of attendance grades has been setup to accommodate this schedule.

University policy permits three classroom hours of unexcused absence without penalty per semester (TTH = 2 absences). Reserve these for possible emergency or illness. For each additional unexcused TTH absence, one-half of a letter grade will be deducted from your final grade. Valid excuses include official university functions or illness with appropriate documentation. If you anticipate a legitimate absence on a test date, contact your instructor in advance so that a make-up test can be scheduled.

Every student will be allowed 2 tardies without penalty per semester. Every third tardy will be counted as equal to one absence. (3 tardies = 1 absence, 6 tardies = 2 absences, etc.) Attendance is a significant factor affecting your success in this course.

As young professionals you should be aware of the importance of university course attendance and how your absence will affect your studies and knowledge. You are responsible for all assignments and material covered in class, and attendance in this course will be vital to your knowledge, understanding, and experience in this course. **DO NOT MISS CLASS!**

GRADING AND EVALUATION

Listening Assignments	10%
Skilled Assignments/Quizzes/Exams	10%
Final Composition Project	80%
Attendance (as listed above)	
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	Total 100%

GRADING SCALE

A = 90 – 100
B = 80 – 89.9
C = 70 – 79.9
D = 60 – 69.9
F = below 59.9

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATION FOR GRADING AND EVALUATION

Because of the nature of the MUSI 4373 course, and the important details and rules associated with it, your instructor reserves the right to make any necessary grade deductions in order to maintain order and avoid misconduct that is intrusive to the class environment and other students' learning.

ASSIGNMENTS, QUIZZES, EXAMS, AND COMPOSITION PROJECTS

Students' progress during the semester will be evaluated through listening, reading, and skilled assignments, studio presentations, quizzes, electronic music projects, and a final exam. This course will be taught in studio class format where students will be required to share their assignments and "works in progress" with the class on a regular basis. While smaller projects will be assigned, MUSI 4373 will be weighted heavily on the Final Composition Project. This project/composition will be given a due date by the instructor, and late projects will NOT be accepted under any circumstance. The Final Composition Project will be a complete electronic piece of at least three (3) minutes that will demonstrate the students' understanding and creative efforts with the course material. The Final Composition Project will be featured and/or performed in a concert at the end of the semester. Attendance is mandatory for this concert performance.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

When you come to class, be prepared to participate in discussions and other activities involving the assigned readings, exercises, and pieces. Bring your questions to class! Unannounced grading may be given at any time to verify that assigned exercises and/or readings are being completed.

CLASS CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

Outside of class, the primary means of communication will be through the student's SamMail account (yoursamID@shsu.edu). Personal email and Facebook (or MySpace) accounts are not acceptable for communication in this course. I send at least 2-4 emails per week with important information including class announcements, cancellations, change of venue, and other issues pertaining to the course for your benefit. Therefore, it is vital to your success in this course to maintain a working SamMail account.

ELECTRONIC STUDIO RULES

The following rules are strictly enforced. Violations of these rules may result in a failing grade and immediate removal from the course.

1. No food or drinks allowed in the studio.
2. Do NOT bring anyone else other than yourself into the lab without prior instructor approval.
3. Do not bring wet items (umbrellas, coats, etc.) into the studio. Leave them by the door upon entering.
4. Do not use the studio as a personal storage room for your instruments, books, or personal items.
6. Do not unplug, reconnect, or alter any equipment in the studio without prior instructor approval.
7. Do not delete any files on the computers (except your own). Nor install or download any files to the computers. If you need to do this for project purposes, let the instructor know ahead of time.
8. Do not remove any equipment from the studio without prior instructor approval.
9. DO NOT OVERLOAD MY SPEAKERS. Be careful when rendering sounds that may be too loud. When in doubt, turn the volume down on the audio interface first.

*****IMPORTANT!!***** I will NOT tolerate students freely playing on the computer during class demonstrations and lectures!!! Doing this will result in a lowering of your course grade, and repeated offenses will result in a failing grade in this course, as well as removal from class. I DO NOT have time to repeat my lectures and demonstration procedures because you are wasting time fooling around on the computer and not paying attention in class!!! There will be plenty of time to work on your own with assignments and tasks in class.

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 not be allowed to have food or drinks in the classroom; however, water in a closed container is acceptable with instructor's approval. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices such as laptops, iPods, etc. during class. Special needs accommodations for allowing any of the above is allowed, but only through approval of the university and the Counseling Center. Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. This includes displays of disrespect to fellow students or instructors. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom will be addressed once with a warning. If the behavior is not corrected, a student may be asked to leave class or may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the Services for Students and Disabilities in the Lee Drain North Annex building and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students and Disabilities.

STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to be absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made in the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.