

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

Course Calendar Description

A practical introduction to electroacoustic music composition, including digital hardware and software. Students will study appropriate concepts, terminology, and repertoire, and will compose original music in the electroacoustic medium.

Prerequisite(s):

Music 1651A/B – Studies in Music Theory II, or the former Music 1650A/B, or permission of the department

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 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

- For scheduled meeting times and classroom numbers, students should consult their personal online timetable or OWL.

Instructor

Dr. Jason Stanford – jstanfo@uwo.ca

Office: TC334

Office Hours: by individual appointment

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will be able and discuss in detail, concepts pertaining to the materials, techniques, and technologies utilized in the creation of electroacoustic music. Students will also apply these concepts in the creation of their own electroacoustic music compositions.

Music 2695A fulfils one of the requirements to take the advanced course: *Music 3696B – Electro-Acoustic Music*. Additional pre-requisites to take Music 3696B are either *Music 2629 – Composition I*, or *Music 1629A/B – Introduction to Composition*, or by special permission.

Course Activities

The activities of the course will include active reduced listening, discussion and analysis of repertoire and recordings, presentation and discussion of student works-in-progress, two Compositional Etudes, 2 written/aural tests, and a final Term Composition, and the (potential) presentation of the composition in concert**.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

***Presentation/performance of a composition in the Electroacoustic Music Concert in December 2023 is a privilege that must be earned; suitable compositions for presentation will be completed on or in advance of the project deadline and will possess a high standard of technical polish and aesthetic interest.*

A schedule of activities is provided later in this document. For a listing of important due dates see the **Key Dates** section of this syllabus.

Attendance is mandatory (5% of final grade). Regular attendance will ensure adequate progress in this course. Students are required to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each lecture.

Assignments **may** be given verbally, or in writing during lectures, and may include concepts including but not limited to: history, terminology, and technology. Some assignments require students to demonstrate skill and facility in the use of specific hardware and/or software.

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. Two written/listening tests will be given this semester. **You may be tested on anything I say in class – take notes.** See the **Key Dates** portion of this syllabus for details.

All work in this course is to be completed outside of class time within the Computer Lab, the exception being when supervised in-class tutorial time is allotted by the instructor. Students are permitted to drop-in to use the Computer Lab as often as desired during regularly scheduled unsupervised free times (any time when a course is not being taught in the space).

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.

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 the Computer Lab. 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. Course readings, if any, will be drawn from a variety of different resources, and will be available on the 2695A-2023 OWL Resources page and/or may be sent to students via OWL Announcement/email.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

Notebooks (Actual or Virtual)

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, 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 both an important **organizational** and **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 TC200 Computer Lab: 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
- a journal of your activities, detailing your technical and creative activities will aid you in troubleshooting and debugging techniques, you will be able to look back and see your progress charted over the entire semester

If you prefer not to take notes or keep a work journal with pen and paper, **please consider taking notes and observations in a text document** - a text document can be updated and stored on your own physical or cloud-based storage media.

Listening List

The entire listening list for the course will be available on the desktop of each iMac computer in the Computer Lab.

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

Storage Media

Cloud-based storage solutions (OneDrive, Google Drive, iCloud, et cetera) are all adequate data back-up solutions instead of a physical hard drive/thumb-drive – as long as they are utilized on a regular basis.

In lieu of using a cloud-based storage solution, students are encouraged to bring a form of removable storage media to class for the purpose of backing up data and archiving work. Unexpected hardware/software failures can and do occur without warning – the regular backup of data *is mandatory*.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

The University ***will not be responsible for damaged or lost data.*** Since most of the creative work in this course is data – if your data is corrupted or irretrievable, so too is your creative work! Typical requirements per student may include the following: USB memory stick (USB3 large capacity – 16-32GB are inexpensive to purchase).

Optional Materials

Software

The majority of the practical and creative work in this course is completed using either the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) **Avid Pro Tools**, or the object-oriented programming environment **Max8** by Cycling'74 (or alternative software titles, if required). You are not required to purchase either title for the course, as each software title is available for use in the Computer Lab.

For those interested in having a personal version of these software titles on your own computer:

*Avid Pro Tools is available for purchase directly from Avid as either a yearly subscription for \$99 US, or an annual subscription paid monthly for \$9.99 US/month. ****Note: Sessions created in ProTools Free are incompatible with the full version of Pro Tools used in this course***

http://shop.avid.com/ccrz__products?operation=quickSearch&searchText=Pro+Tools+Academic

Max8 (which includes: Max, MSP, Jitter, and Gen) 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>

Reference Monitoring

An accurate listening environment equals accurate sonic outcomes when recording and composing, mixing, and mastering with digital audio. The computer lab does not have any speakers connected to the iMac workstations, so all monitoring must be done with headphones (so not to disrupt other students by using the built-in iMac speakers).

It is strongly suggested that students bring their own headphones to the Computer Lab for individual work. Headphones should have a 1/8" connector and 1/8" to 1/4" adapter.

Any pair of over-the-ear headphones will suffice; while wired earbuds are not ideal for professional monitoring, they will suffice if that is all you have.

If you are interested in purchasing a professional-quality pair of studio reference headphones, please see the attached headphone handout.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall - 2023

Requirements, Dates, and Evaluation
--

Compositions will be graded 50/50 on technical and creative merits.

Term Composition (and concert presentation*)	45%
Compositional Etudes (2x 15% each)	30%
Written/Aural test 1	10%
Written/Aural test 2	10%
Attendance (including preparation and participation)	5%
	100%

*Consultation with the Instructor during the process of composition is a requirement. The Instructor should see sufficient work-in-progress especially as deadlines, the end of term, and the concert approach. Office hour times are available upon request and subject to the availability of the Instructor.

Electroacoustic Music Concert

Students are required to participate in the setup, sound check, and the entire duration of the dress rehearsal for the Electroacoustic Music Concert taking place on Tuesday December 5, 2023, from 8pm-9:30pm in MB242. More details concerning the concert will be communicated closer to the event.

<http://www.events.westernu.ca/events/music/2023-12/Electroacoustic-Music-Concert.html>

Late Submission Policy

Late submission of *Pro Tools* sessions, *Max8* patches, or written work will only be accepted under the circumstances listed below.

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

Studio and Technical Support Policies and Procedures

Only students enrolled in Music 2695B are permitted to be in the Computer Lab, no outside individuals are to be permitted access to the Computer Lab with you.

Please be respectful and considerate of your fellow students by leaving the studio/lab in a clean and usable condition for the next user. Report any hardware/software technical problems immediately to the instructor.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

Notes

1.) Course Prerequisites

As mentioned previously the prerequisite for Music 2695A is the successful completion of Music 1651A/B, or the former Music 1650A/B. If you do not meet the prerequisites for this course or obtain special permission from your Dean to enroll then 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 meet the prerequisites.

2.) Grading scale

A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

3.) Academic Consideration for Student Absence & Missing Work (≥10%)

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. Academic Consideration provides students with consistent, fair, and pedagogically appropriate consideration, without compromising the academic integrity of the course or program, when they have been unable to complete some component of a course due to short-term extenuating circumstances. Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions (physical or mental) that may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities are directed to seek Academic Accommodation through Accessible Education ([Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)).

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the end of the period of absence covered, to the Academic Counselling unit or Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), of the student's Home Faculty together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the academic consideration being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate Policy on Academic Consideration for Medical Illness at the following website for further details regarding various requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

4.) Academic Consideration for Missing Work (<10%)

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, the instructor may decide to meet individually with a student to discuss a plan to make up the missing work. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

5.) Academic Offences:

Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. *It is also an academic offence to submit the same work created in/or for assessment in another class (a composition, song, mix, session, et cetera – either in full or in part).* Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

6.) Mental Health & Wellness

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in Thames Hall room 2170. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in Thames Hall 2170 or to click on the big green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

7.) Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Students work with Accessible Education which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

8.) Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (other than statutory holidays), and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. The Diversity Calendar from the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion provides information on multifaith, multicultural and diversity related holidays and observances and links to resources for more information.

<https://www.edi.uwo.ca/resources/2816-2023-Diversity-Calendar-PDF.pdf>

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music

Department of Music Research and Composition

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Western University

Fall - 2023

9.) Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

2695A Related Notes

10.) Hand in assignments to the instructor at the beginning of class on the day for which the assignment is due. Never leave completed assignments in faculty mailboxes in the main office and do not slide them under the instructor's door. Acceptance of late assignments will be at the discretion of the instructor and only if extenuating circumstances prevail; otherwise late assignments will not be graded.

11.) Complete assignments neatly using a clear and organized approach within software utilized for each project (Pro Tools and Max8, or other). Max8 patches are to be clearly and neatly organized in a manner that demonstrates signal/control flow. Submitted Pro Tools sessions are to be well-organized, with any extraneous, un-used materials/tracks removed from the final version submitted for assessment by the instructor.

12.) The in-class use of electronic devices other than the iMac computers in for class work or for accessing OWL materials for this class is expressly prohibited. Please turn off all mobile devices during lectures. Laptops or tablets are permitted if they are being used as study aids, only if prior permission for their use has been requested and granted. Students who disrupt classes with electronic devices will be asked to leave the class and will not be permitted to re-enter the class with their device until they can satisfactorily prove to the instructor that their device will no longer be a disruption.

Notes on Contingency Plan in case of a University-Declared Emergency

13.) Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, should any university-declared emergency require some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience), the course will adapt accordingly. The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor. In this case, the following notes below will come into effect: Online Etiquette and Recording of Online Activities.

14.) Online Etiquette

Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of “netiquette”:

Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.

Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.

Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behavior of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of “Zoom-bombing” a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.

15.) Recording of Online Activities

All of the remote learning sessions for this course will be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall - 2023

Key Due Dates

Assignment

|Tuesday September 19, 2023

|1|- Compositional Etude No.1 – Assigned
|+|- Due in 3 weeks

|Tuesday October 3, 2023

|2|- Term Composition - Assigned
|+|- Due in 6 weeks (+ Reading Week*)

|Friday October 6, 2023

|3|- Test 1 – In Class

|Tuesday October 10, 2023

|4|- Compositional Etude No.2 – Assigned
|+|- Due in 3 weeks (+ Reading Week*)

|**Monday October 31 -
Sunday November 6, 2023**

|**Fall Reading Week – No Classes – University is Open**

*students are not required to work on their Etude or Term Composition over Reading Week

|Friday November 10, 2023

|5|- Test 2 – In Class

|Tuesday November 21, 2023

|+|- Soft Deadline for Term Composition

|Tuesday November 28, 2023

|+|- Hard Deadline for Term Composition

|Tuesday December 5, 2023

|+|- Electro-Acoustic Music Concert – MB242
|+|- Set-Up/Dress Rehearsal: 9am-6pm
|+|- Concert: 8:00-9:30pm
|+|- Tear-Down: 9:30-10pm

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music
 Department of Music Research and Composition
 Don Wright Faculty of Music
 Western University
 Fall - 2023

			Compositional Etude 1	Test 1	Compositional Etude 2	Term Composition	Test 2	
September	Friday	8						
	Tuesday	12						
	Friday	15						
	Tuesday	19	Assigned					
	Friday	22						
	Tuesday	26						
	Friday	29						
October	Tuesday	3	Due	In Class	Assigned	Assigned		
	Friday	6						
	Tuesday	10						
	Friday	13						
	Tuesday	17						
	Friday	20						
	Tuesday	24						
	Friday	27						
	Tuesday	31	Reading Week					
November	Friday	3	Reading Week					
	Tuesday	7			Due	Soft Deadline		
	Friday	10						In Class
	Tuesday	14						
	Friday	17						
	Tuesday	21				Hard Deadline		
	Friday	24						
	Tuesday	28						
December	Friday	1						
	Tuesday	5				Performance		

Music 2695A - Introduction to Electroacoustic Music
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
Fall - 2023

Important Sessional Dates

2023

Monday September 4	Labour Day	Official Holiday – University is closed
Thursday September 7	Classes Resume	
Friday September 8	Music 2695A-2023 – First Meeting	
Thursday September 15	last day to add a full course, or a first-term half course	
Monday October 9	Thanksgiving	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday October 30- Sunday November 5	Fall Reading Week	No Classes – University is Open
Tuesday November 30	Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course without penalty	
Wednesday December 8	Fall/Winter Term Classes End	
Thursday December 9	Study Day	
Friday December 10-22	Exam Period	

2024

Monday January 8	Classes resume	
Tuesday January 16	Last day to add a second-term half course or a second-term full course	
February 17-25	Spring Reading Week - No Classes – University is Open	
[February 19]	Family Day	Official Holiday – University is Closed
Monday March 7	Last day to drop a second-term half course, or a second-term full course without academic penalty	
Monday April 8	Fall/Winter Term classes end	
Tuesday April 9-10	Study Days.	
Thursday April 11-30	Final examination period	

<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>