Music 3696B - Electroacoustic Music Composition
Department of Music Research and Composition
Don Wright Faculty of Music
Western University
2024

Course Calendar Description

Continued study of the terminology and technology of electronic music. Historical development, *musique concrète*, the "classical" studio, the synthesizer, and computer applications. Survey of the literature with some analysis. Compositional techniques and notation peculiar to electronic music and its real time performance.

Antirequisite(s):   **Prerequisite(s):**
Music 3695   Music 2695A/B, and either Music 2629, or music 1629A/B

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   TC 334
                        Office Hours: by individual appointment

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Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course students will not only be able to discuss, in detail, technical and technological notions related to the use of technology in music applications, but they will also have gained transferable skills in the application of specific technologies through the creation of original compositions for instruments and/or voices combined with electro-acoustic sound or live electro-acoustic sound processing.

Through hands-on practical assignments and projects students will gain a high level of proficiency and technical fluency in utilizing software and hardware within the CEARP studio and in the staging of the year-end electro-acoustic music concert.

Students will gain a deeper understanding of significant electro-acoustic music compositions from the repertoire through listening, discussion, and analysis.

Course Activities

The activities of the course will include active reduced listening, discussion, and analysis of repertoire and recordings, weekly in-class presentations of assignments and work-in-progress, small compositional etudes, one major term compositions of substantial proportions, and the presentation of this major composition live in concert.

Compositions

Most time and energy will be spent on the composition of one major electro-acoustic work during the term. This substantial composition will include live performance elements. Compositions will be undertaken individually by each student in consultation with the instructor.

For each piece, in addition to all audio files, Pro Tools Sessions, and Max patches, students will submit a bound score (if appropriate) that includes fully notated music for instrumentalists/vocalists, graphics/tablature for real-time MIDI controllers and/or synthesizers, technical details and instructions including: diagrams of staging, control/signal schematics and an explanation of all data and signal processing utilized in the work. The goal of this score is to document for others how to perform your composition in the future.

Electroacoustic Music Concert

*Students are **required** to participate* in the setup and sound check for the Electroacoustic Music Concert on ***Tuesday April 2, 2024***. There is a class release to participate in the concert setup from 9am to 10pm. Students are required to participate in the moving of gear from CEARP to PDT, the setup, the sound check, and the dress rehearsal prior to the concert and to also assist in the striking and moving of gear to CEARP after the concert. Moving gear, setup, and dress rehearsal will commence at approximately 8am on the day of the concert in Paul Davenport Theatre. Students will be responsible for promoting the event. *This is an all-day activity and will take place from approximately 8am to 10pm.*

Studio Time

Each student *may* be able to reserve up to 5 hours/week of studio time for independent work. Additional studio time, if available, may be signed up for on a first come, first served basis. Studio time may be reserved no more than 1 week ahead of time. The TC344C Booking Schedule on OWL is monitored on a regular basis to ensure fairness and equity in the allocation of studio time.

Students can sign-up for time on the TC344C Schedule on OWL. Spontaneous use of CEARP is permitted on a drop-in basis, if you come to CEARP and find booked studio time is not being used, you may use it until such time as the person comes to claim their time.

If you are not going to use your studio time, please be considerate to your fellow students and log into OWL and delete the single instance of your time you are not going to use (and move it to another available time spot you can use).

<u>Attendance is mandatory</u> (10% of final grade) and will ensure adequate progress in this course. Students are required to sign an attendance sheet for the Tuesday 2-hour lecture and a TBD 1-hour tutorial session each week. Attendance is taken at every meeting, and students are required to initial on the attendance form.

The key to success in this course is **_regular work_** **in CEARP**, if you invest the time, you will understand key concepts and be able to effectively apply these concepts to your own work**.**

Assignments may be given verbally, or in writing during lectures, and may include quizzes on terminology/comprehension. Some assignments may include a library and/or web research component. Some assignments require students to demonstrate skill and facility in the use of specific hardware and/or software.

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 <u>regular work</u>, from signing-up and utilizing your available time in CEARP. Believe me when I say that you cannot <u>cram</u> in order to demonstrate creative or technical facility through hardware/software.

Course Materials and Resources

Textbooks
There is no textbook for this course, rather, any readings will be drawn from a variety of different resources, and will be available online in the Resources page on OWL.

Notebooks
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/tutorials, 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 an important 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 CEARP: 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

- An activity journal of your technical and creative will aid students in troubleshooting and debugging techniques, you will be able to look back and see your charted progress over the course of the semester

Listening List

The listening list (and any accompanying musical scores) will evolve over the term and will be available on the Mac Pro in the CEARP studio on as uncompressed *.WAV* audio files.

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

Storage Media

Unexpected hardware/software failures can and do occur without warning –regular backup of data *is mandatory*.   The University will not be responsible for damaged or lost data. *Typical requirements per student may include a selection of the following: USB memory stick (USB3 large capacity – 16-32GB are inexpensive to purchase).*

Optional Materials

Software

Most of the practical and creative work of this course is completed using either: the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) **Avid Pro Tools**, or in the object-oriented programming environment **Max8** by Cycling'74.

Although you are not required to purchase either title for the course, as both are available for use in CEARP, it is strongly encouraged that students purchase their own license of Max/MSP (even a 4-month subscription) to work independently on your own computer.

Avid Pro Tools is available for purchase directly from Avid as either a yearly subscription for $99 US, or a monthly subscription for $9.99 US/month.
http://shop.avid.com/ccrz__products?operation=quickSearch&searchText=Pro+Tools+Academic

Max8 (including 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

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Requirements, Dates, and Evaluation

Compositions will be graded on technical and creative merits. Grading of compositions will take into account the creativity and originality of the project in regards to the treatment of form, structure, register, sonority, *etcetera*, as well as the level of sophistication and refinement in the use of hardware and software within the composition.

- Term Composition (approximately +7-10 minutes)   50%
- Compositional Etudes, other written assignments,
  studies, worksheets, if any   40%
- Attendance, Preparation, Participation   10%

Consultation with the Instructor during the process of composition is a requirement. The Instructor must see sufficient work-in-progress especially as deadlines of the term and concert approach. Students can utilize additional times are available upon request, subject to the availability of the Instructor.

Late Submission Policy
Late written work, *Max/MSP* patches, and *Pro Tools* sessions, will only be accepted under the circumstances listed below.

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

Notes

1.) Course Prerequisites
   As mentioned previously the prerequisite for Music 2695A is the successful completion of either Music 2629, Music 16296A/B or 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.

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

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.

3696B 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.

Important Sessional Dates

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
Tuesday April 2	Electroacoustic Music Concert – 6pm – setup and dress rehearsals all day
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