The Electronic Music Studio—Music 190

Instructor: Tim Poulin

Section: 98482—3 units
Classroom: C222
Text: (619) 395-2495

Class Meetings: MW 9:10-11:00 AM
Website: http://timpoulinmusic.com
Email: tim.poulin@gmail.com

Office hours: In the studio by request.
Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit Option

Prerequisites: none
Transfer Applicability: Associate Degree Credit & transfer to CSU and/or private colleges and universities, UC

Transfer Course List

Catalogue Course Description: This course is a study of simple electronic and acoustic theory as it applies to sequencing Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI), hard disk recording and other computer music applications. Students design and create projects using microphones, recorders, mixing boards, synthesizers, and samplers. This course is designed for all students interested in making electronic music in a recording studio. (FT) AA/AS; CSU.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:
1. Follow security and scheduling procedures, and cooperate with personnel responsible for the studio.
2. Explain how various electronic analog and digital instruments interface.
3. Produce music utilizing the basic equipment found in an electronic music studio.
5. Operate the basic equipment found in an electronic music studio.

Materials Needed:
1. Course PDF handouts (online at http://timpoulinmusic.com)
2. Flash/Thumb drive (USB) for projects
3. Headphones with ¼” adapter
4. Large envelope for projects

Equity Statement:
I am committed the goals of each student in my classes. I realize that you may have dealt with, or be dealing with many challenges that I cannot see, including financial, emotional, discrimination/stereotype related, and/or many others. You are welcome here, and I both value your presence, and believe in your success. I also look forward to listening to you, in order to better serve these goals.

Grading: Creative Projects and Participation
This course relies upon your enjoying yourself and having something to show for it. You will be working on creative projects that you define. These projects will be handed in periodically. For the sake of convention and form (i.e. a grade) I will be mostly evaluating your progress through these projects you turn in. Each project must be presented in front of the class in order to get credit. With the exception of the Midterm, all projects will be evaluated on a pass/fail basis. The Midterm is graded and students who do not achieve a grade of C or better forfeit the last project and instead must re-take another exam.
The relative weighting of the components of the course:

Participation (attendance, homework, and studio skills demonstration) ..........................................................30%
Group Project .................................................................................................................................................10%
Sibelius® Project .............................................................................................................................................10%
Goals of the Course: The main goal of this class is to give you some practical experience with the electronic music studio -- with the synthesizer and sampler keyboards and modules, recording equipment, and the computer music programs that can work together with this equipment. Thus this course relies heavily upon the personal lab time you put into the studio: your exploring, noodling, having fun with the equipment we have to offer. In addition, this course will provide some basic acoustic and electronic theory to enable you to understand the nature of the kind of music you are creating and to pursue more advanced studies in these areas. You will be working on various creative projects, attending lecture demonstrations, and sharing your discoveries with others in class.

Attendance and participation:

- **It is your responsibility to drop the class if you are no longer attending**
- If you are absent 4 times, you may be dropped by me without notice
- If you remain enrolled in the class beyond the published withdrawal deadline, you will receive a grade. It is your responsibility to withdraw at this point (and receive a W), or receive the currently earned grade in the class.

Important Dates:
- Add/Drop deadline ................................................................................. Friday, February 10th (refund)
- Census date ............................................................................................ Noon on Friday, February 13th
- Holiday—Lincoln .................................................................................. Friday, February 17th
- Holiday—Washington ........................................................................... Monday, February 20th
- Pass/no pass deadline ........................................................................... Monday, March 6th
- Holiday—Spring Break ........................................................................ March 27-31st (M-F)
- Last day to drop without a W ................................................................. Friday, April 14th
- Final Exam Days .................................................................................. M/W May 22nd and 24th
- Last day of fall semester ....................................................................... Saturday, May 27th

Studio Regulations: The Electronic Music Studio (EMS) can accommodate 6 main projects at a time; 4 workstations in the main classroom, one workstation in each of the side rooms. When more than one person is occupying the main classroom with its multiple workstations, students must use headsets. Two workstations in the Main Studio also have equipment that can be directly connected to trunk lines in the Sound Booth, Band Room and/or the Choir Room. Students can reserve only one of these 6 stations at a time by writing in their Log-in aliases on the Reservation sheet in half-hour increments. It is recommended that students sign up for two or three consecutive half hour time slots at a time per week. Advanced students reserving the big SONY console must have his/her instructor initial authorization form. In addition there may be additional computers and equipment located within the EMS but not identified with any workstation. These may be used on a first-come first-serve basis. Due to the heavy flow of students and continuous use of the facilities, students must not work on projects deemed to be

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-3 Exams (written and practical)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra Credit Concert Attendance Form</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Individual Projects</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Possible Total</td>
<td>105%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

90-105% = A  
80-89% = B  
70-79% = C  
50-69% = D  

! 49% oops...
extracurricular to their assignments. They will be asked to relinquish their space and/or lab time if not working on class assignments. The supervising instructor and/or the Music Department Secretary, or those acting on their behalf, reserve the right to ask any student at any time to relinquish their space and/or lab time. Priorities for work in the EMS are (from first to last):

1. The Instructors of EMS classes.
2. Students who have signed up in advance (up to 1.5 hrs/week) who are working on class assignments.
3. Students who have not signed up in advance who are working on class assignments, and have not yet met their 1.5 hrs/week allotment.
4. Students who have not signed up in advance who are working on class assignments, but have already met 1.5 hrs/week allotment.

Students who have conflicts with other students must first attempt to resolve these disputes themselves. In working to resolve these disputes themselves, students should refer to the posted rules of the EMS and be aware of their general rights and responsibilities listed in Policy 3100 as outlined in the Mesa College catalogue. Disputes that cannot be resolved by the students themselves should then be brought to the supervising instructor or to the support staff or faculty within five school-calendar days. If at this point agreement still cannot be reached, the supervising instructor will, in consultation with the student(s), implement appropriate disciplinary measures. All studio personnel charged with the security and the maintenance of student traffic in the studio must be obeyed and treated with respect. Any conflicts with these personnel should be brought to the supervising instructor in charge of the course within five school-calendar days. If such agreement cannot be reached, the supervising instructor will, in consultation with the student(s), implement appropriate disciplinary measures pursuant to Policy 3100 as outlined in the Mesa College catalogue. Continued (see next)

**Studio Regulations**
(continued)
To avoid any possible conflicts with other students or personnel, follow these pointers:
1. Be prepared to leave at the end of your time. When the next signed-in student arrives or the studio is closing, you must immediately relinquish the workstation.
2. If someone who has signed up for a given half hour slot does not arrive within ten minutes of the start of that half hour slot, that slot is available.
3. Always log-in and log-out when you begin and end your sessions or are away for an extended time.
4. Do not assume others are not bothered by your sound. Use headphones. Use monitor speakers only when the room you are in is empty or for critical mixes.
5. Try to return all cables to their original state when finished. Do not leave behind headphone adapters. Pick up any scraps. Keep the studio neat.
6. Leave all computers and main power strips on. (Studio personnel will lock up and fully shut down the studio at the end of the day.) If a computer "crashes" report it and let authorized personnel try to restart it.
7. No food or drink or any other slobbery, slippery, silty or sooty substances allowed in the room. No smoking of ANY substances in the studio, organic or otherwise!
8. No visitors, friends, etc. unless they are enrolled in the Electronic Studio classes, or you have obtained a signed authorization for them from the proper studio personnel.
9. Know and follow the rules regarding how to reserve lab time on the Reservation Sheet: Use only your own authorized 4-letter Login Name, clearly printed in ink. Do not reserve more than your allotted 3 half-hour slots per course. Do not use arrows. Do not cross out your or anyone else's Login Name even if written down in error.
10. During open lab time, do not bring into the EMS back-packs or large handbags/purses. Lockers to store the bulk of you supplies are also available either in the Studio or outside in the hallway. See the Music Office about how to get access to one if you need one.
11. Do not use the SONY mix console unless you have an authorized signature. Only advanced students under special circumstances may use this console.
12. If you have lab time during another EMS class, make every effort to not be disruptive to that class. The Instructor retains the right to ask you to leave the facilities during his class for any reason.
13. Do not "hog" the studio. You should be working on class projects only.
14. You are responsible for equipment, safety and following these regulations while in this room. Help enforce common sense -- report anything that violates these rules. These rules protect you as well as the Studio. Failure to comply with these rules may result in the suspension of Lab privileges and/or removal from class enrollment.

5 % Extra Credit
Should you be in a position that you need extra credit, then with the consent of the instructor and at the choice of the instructor you may be able to do a CONCERT REPORT.

CONCERT REPORT: There is a list of concert events that are promoted by the Music Department that also have either direct or tangential relation to the subject of your class. These concerts are offered free of charge as the Recital Hour and available to the general public as well as being a required class for music majors and students interested in a Certificate of Music Technology degree. To get the 5% credit for attending one of these authorized concerts you need to do the following: Your Report must be turned in within 14 days of the event. On a separate sheet of paper (other than this), a) describe the event in general, and b) describe in detail the piece that most interested you. Discuss the piece and the concert in general in terms of how you would record it or arrange it as a project for your EMS class. Include a souvenir to document your attendance; this might be program notes, an autograph, a ticket stub, etc. Staple it to your Report.