Music 80C
History and Literature of Electronic Music
Tuesday/Thursday, 1-4:30PM
Music Center 131

Instructor: Madison Heying
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Description:

This course is a survey of the history and literature of electronic and computer music. In each class we will learn about a music-making technique, composer, aesthetic movement, and the associated repertoire.

Tests and Quizzes:

There will be one exam and two quizzes for this course. Students will be tested on the required listening and materials covered in lectures. To be prepared students must spend time outside class listening to required listening, and should keep track of the content of the lectures to study.

*Study guides are a suggestion of what to study, not guarantee of what will be on an exam.

Assignments and Participation:

A portion of each class will be spent learning the techniques of electronic and computer music-making. Your attendance and participation in this portion of the class is imperative. Participation in the assignments and workshops will provide you with knowledge of skills and context that will help you on the final exam. Late assignments are excepted at a penalty.

Assignment 1: I Am Sitting in A Room (Due August 8)
Assignment 2: Purposeful Listening/Field Recording (Due August 15)
Assignment 3: Race and Gender in Hip Hop (Due August 22)

Grading:

Attendance/Participation: 15%
Quizzes: (2 x 5 points): 10%
Assignments (3 x 15 points): 45%
Final Exam: 30%
Canvas:

The required listening and recommended readings are available on canvas. Some of the materials may need to be accessed online through the library’s website. **There is no textbook for this course.** All recommended readings will be pdfs or websites.

**Extra Credit (5 Points):**

There will be two extra credit opportunities. Option 1: On **August 12**, Indexical is holding an all day Fringe Festival at the Museum of Art and History in downtown Santa Cruz (More information will be provided in class). If you attend at least an hour of this festival and write a 200-300-word report you will receive up to 5 points extra credit. Option 2: On **August 26** there will be a concert in the DARC building. Please attend the entire concert and write a 200-300-word report. If for some reason you cannot attend either concert, and you let me know **ASAP**, I will figure out an alternative for you.

*****Class Schedule and Syllabus are Subject to Change*****

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1**

**August 1, Tuesday, Introduction // Early Electronic Music**

In Class:
- Go over syllabus
- Discuss “electronic music”
- Basics of music: acoustics, frequency and pitch, loudness, timbre
- Early Electronic Instruments: Recording technology, Cahill, Russolo, Theremin, Ondes Martenot
- Early Electronic Music: John Cage, Johann Beyer

Listening:
- Luigi Russolo, *Risveglio di una Città* (1921)
- Clara Rockmore, *Valse Sentimentale*
- Cage, *Imaginary Landscape No. 1* (1939)
- Beyer, *Music of the Spheres* (1938)
August 3, Thursday, Early Electronic Music – Magnetic Tape

In Class:

- Magnetic Tape
- Electronic Music Studios (Europe):
  1. RDF, France (musique concrète)
  2. WDR, Germany (elektronische musik)
- Jikken Kobo, Experimental Music in Japan
- Louis and Bebe Barron, Forbidden Planet (1956) // Cage, Williams Mix (1952)

**Tape Machine Workshop with Scott Makson

Listening:

- John Cage, Williams Mix (1951–53)
- Louis and Bebe Barron, “Main Title” from Forbidden Planet (1956)
- Pierre Schaeffer, Études du Bruits (1948)
- Varèse, Poème Electronique (1958)
- Stockhausen, Kontakte (1959–60)
- Xenakis, Bohor (1962)
- Takemitsu, Vocalism AI (1957)

Week 2 – Meet in DARC 340

August 8, Tuesday, Electronic Music Studios and Live Electronic Music

***Assignment #1 Due***

In Class:

- Electronic Music Studios (USA):
  1. CPEMC, NYC
  2. SFTMC, San Francisco
  3. Once Group/Sonic Arts Union
- Studios in Latin America
- Live Electronic Music, David Tudor, Rainforest
- John Cage, Variations V and VII

Listening:

- Pauline Oliveros, Bye Bye Butterfly (1965)
- Steve Reich, Come Out (1966)
• Alvin Lucier, *I am Sitting in a Room* (1969)
• Gordon Mumma, *Hornpipe* (1967)
• Juan Amenabar, *Los Peces* (1957)
• Tudor, *Rainforest* (1968)

**August 10, Thursday, Synthesizers**

In Class:
- Synthesizers
  1. Robert Moog
  2. Don Buchla
- Daphne Oram and the BBC Radiophonic Workshop
- Around the World, Charanjit Singh
- Crossover between experimental and popular
- Introduction to Environmental Sound Art and Field Recording

Listening:
- Wendy Carlos, *Switched on Bach* (1968)
- Daphne Oram, *Rotolock*

***Synthesizer Demo with Scott Makson***

**Week 3**

**August 15, Tuesday, Sound Art, Performance Art, & Acoustic Ecology**

***Assignment #2 Due***

In Class:
- Sound art and performance art
- Fluxus, Yoko Ono, Carolee Schneemann, Laurie Anderson
- Christina Kubisch, Gordon Monahan, Christine Sun-Kim
- Sound art and the environment
- R. Murray Schafer, Barry Truax, Hildegard Westerkamp, Acoustic Ecology
- David Dunn, Annea Lockwood, Yolande Harris

Listening:
- The Velvet Underground, *Heroin* (1967)

**August 17, Thursday, Computer Music**

***Quiz #1***

In Class:
- Early Computer Music (1950s): Lejaren Hiller and Leonard Isaacson
- Bell Labs (1960s), James Tenney
- In the 70s, Charles Dodge
- In the 1980s, Carla Scaletti and Kyma
- AI, George Lewis and Voyager

Listening:
- Tenney, *Phases* (1963)
- George Lewis, *Voyager I* (1993)

**Week 4**

**August 22, Tuesday, Hip Hop**

***Assignment #3 Due***

In Class:
- Disco and funk
- Early Hip-hop culture
- Toasting, Rapping, and Beatboxing
- DJs and Sampling
- DJ Kool Herc and Grandmaster Flowers, Grandmaster Flash, Afrika Bambaataa

Listening:
- The Sugarhill Gang, “Rapper’s Delight” (1979)
- Queen Latifa, “Ladies First”

**August 24, Thursday, Experimental Electronic Music Since 1990**
***Quiz #2***

In Class:
- Gestural Controllers: Laetitia Sonami, Pamela Z, Lucky Dragons
- Toshi Nakamura, No Input Mixing
- Noise Music, Merzbow
- Drone/Improvisation, Zachary James Watkins
- Blectum from Blechdom

Listening:
- Black Spirituals, Improvised Set (2015)

Week 5

**August 29, Tuesday, Guest Lecturer: Gabriel Mindel**

- Gabriel Mindel
- Final Exam Review

**August 31, Thursday, Final Exam**