

Course Syllabus

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Music 73: Music and the Ocean
UCSC Music Department, Summer Session 2 2024
Instructor: Sean Keenan

In person: Music Center 131, Thursday 9.30-12.30
3 credits, GE code: PR-C (Practice: Creative Process)
email: yharris@ucsc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Music and the Ocean is a studio course designed to explore relationships between music, sound and the ocean. The ocean offers an expansive, global perspective and students will learn from a broad selection of music from oceanic and western cultures, deep listening techniques and scientific research on underwater sound and apply it to their own music making through individual and collaborative projects. Students will also explore connections between electronic music making and environmental sound research, including an introduction to listening techniques, recording, editing and analysis, composition and installation. The course is open to performers, composers and theorists, as well as those from other disciplines, who want to expand their knowledge and practice in an experimental environment. The course ends with an online performance/presentation of new student work.

COURSE GOAL:

To enable students to engage in creative research practices through the topic of music and the ocean, joining music, science, theory and technology.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To consider how music interacts with our social, cultural, scientific and natural environments
- To apply research to creative projects
- To learn critical thinking about music history and culture
- To learn to listen and utilize multiple aspects of sound in creative ways
- To learn basic sound editing and analysis techniques
- To create an independent creative project

COURSE ORGANIZATION:

- This is an **in person course** and will include:
 - Screenings, readings and discussion of relevant musical examples
 - Workshops and research presentations
 - Critiques of student work in process, assignments and sketches
 - Technical demonstrations of audio equipment and editing software
 - Realization of a final project

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Complete all modules and assignments and present them during class critiques online
Read and prepare for discussion all assigned readings
Active participation in all workshops
Positive collaboration with fellow students

EVALUATION AND GRADING: Criteria for successful completion of the course are as follows:

Participation and collaboration: 30% Project 1 10% Project 2 10% Project 3 20% Final Project: 30%

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

Project 1: Ocean Sounds Matrix Map

Create a matrix map of the expansive field of sound and the ocean

Project 2: Analyzing Ocean Sounds

Analyze a sound recording of ocean sound from scientific research.

Project 3: Collaboration

Create a collaborative creative project in a team of three to address one question about sound and the ocean.

Final Project: Create a final independent project that is original, complete and ready for presentation/performance on the final week of term. The specific parameters are dependent on the interests and needs of each student and will be developed through feedback in class. Students can develop sound tracks, compositions, installations or other formats. The project should build on the work developed during the term.

BREAKDOWN OF STUDENT HOURS PER WEEK (total 18 hours):

Classwork - Lectures, Readings: 3 hours

Major graded assignments: 8 hours

Small workshop assignments: 3 hours

Research: 4 hours

COURSE SCHEDULE: will be regularly updated, check weekly

Week 1: Introduction to Music and the Ocean

Week 2: Musical Approaches

Week 3: Working with Science of Underwater Sound

Week 4: Integrating Approaches to Music and the Ocean

Week 5: Final Project Presentations / Performances

PRACTICAL NEEDS FOR THIS COURSE:

Access to software provided by UCSC (free to students), including the Adobe Creative

Cloud specifically Adobe Audition. See <https://its.ucsc.edu/software/creative-cloud.html>

Students need to have their own computer (PC or Mac) capable of editing sound. Ideally students will have some way to record stereo sound. In some circumstances phone microphones and cameras will be acceptable.

Ideally students need to have their own external hard drive for storing, editing and backing up larger sound files and projects.

Students are required to have their own headphones for listening during class and editing, over ear recommended (instead of 'ear-buds').

GRADING SCALE:

97-100 A+	94-96 A	90-93 A-
87-89 B+	84-86 B	80-83 B-
77-79 C+	74-76 C	70-73 C-
67-69 D+	64-66 D	60-63 D-
59-below		

COURSE POLICIES:

1. Late Assignments: All assignments should be submitted on time and in class unless otherwise specified. Grades will be reduced by 5% each day the assignment is submitted late and I will not take any assignment or papers later than 3 days past the due date.

2. Attendance: Class lectures are mandatory and your attendance will be calculated in your final grade percentage. More than four unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for attendance. You must notify me by email before the beginning of class.

3. Students with Disabilities: UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me by email, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. I would also like us to discuss ways we can ensure your full participation in the course. I encourage all students who may benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu.

4. Other Student Support Services: UC Santa Cruz offers other resources for students to ensure a positive academic experience. These include the Campus Advocacy, Resources and Education (CARE) office, as well as title IX. Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Office by calling (831) 502-2273. You can also find out more about CARE at this link. In addition, Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential, counseling support, (831) 459-2628. You can also report gender discrimination directly to the University's Title IX Office, (831) 459-2462. Reports to law enforcement can be made to

UCPD, (831) 459- 2231 ext. 1. For emergencies call 911.

4. Changes in Course Outline: Some changes may be made in specific readings and other assignments; some minor adjustments to the schedule may also be made. Such changes will be described during lectures or posted on the class website.

5. Class Etiquette: It is important to maintain a learning environment in class lecture and in discussion sections. Students are expected to arrive on time for class, to turn off cellular phones and audible pagers, and end conversations and reading of non-related course material by the start of class. Personal conversation may not be conducted during lectures and discussions, since they are distracting to both the instructor and other students. Guest-speakers and musicians should be shown special courtesy.

6. About Email: Please be sure your e-mail address is up to date in the UCSC system, as I may use it to send out class emails from time to time. If you send me email, please allow at least 24 hours for a response. I often do not return emails over the weekend. If you have substantive questions about the material, I may ask you to talk with me directly in class or schedule a time to meet with me, which I am happy to accommodate.

7. Academic Integrity: For the UC Santa Cruz Academic Integrity Policy, see <https://registrar.ucsc.edu/navigator/section1/academic-integrity.html>