

MUCO541: ADVANCED DIGITAL STUDIO COMPOSITION I

Instructor: Marlon Schumacher
Location: Digital Composition Studio: E-515 (Studio 2)
Time: Wednesday 8:35 – 11:25
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Teaching Assistant: David Rafferty
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Office Hours: Monday 13:00 – 15:00 DCS (tentative)

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: MUCO342 or permission of the instructor

Course Description: <http://www.mcgill.ca/study/2015-2016/courses/muco-541>

MUCO 541 Advanced Digital Studio Composition I
(3 hours lecture-demonstration + 3 hours studio time)

Advanced topics in digital studio composition. Aesthetics and poetics of electroacoustic composition. Analytical approaches to this repertoire. Use of digital signal processing and synthesis techniques. Creation of complete pieces incorporating music technology which may include a live performance component.

Software (available at the Digital Composition Studios):

- Performance Environment: Max 6/7, Third-party externals
- DAW: Apple Logic Pro
+ Various Plugin Bundles (Waves, TC, etc.)
- IRCAM Forum Software (OpenMusic, Audiosculpt, SuperVP, etc.)
- CIRMMT Live Electronics Framework (CLEF)

Materials:

Students are strongly encouraged to acquire a license/subscription for Cycling 74's Max7. Readings from various sources will be assigned during the term and can be found either on the course webpage or on Music reserve (Library). No textbook is required.

Evaluation:

- Class Contribution: 15 %
- Term Work: 30 %
- Listening Test: 10 %
- Theory Examination: 15 %
- Final Project 30 %

Note: Class Contribution includes discussion of weekly assignments, and an in-class presentation of a piece or an article dealing with live-electronics. Attendance is mandatory.

Class-Structure:

Assignment / Presentations	25 min.
Laboratory	90 min.
Compositional Topics, Analysis	30 min.
Assignment + Discussion	10 min.

Term Work:

Term Work will consist of weekly assignments, which might include programming tasks, short summaries of readings, analysis/discussion of musical examples. Weekly assignments will be explained during the lecture and are due by midnight the day before the following class. Late assignments will not be considered.

Exams:

- Midi-based live electronics study (mid-term).
- Listening Test on the pieces available on the course webpage.
- Theory Examination on MaxMSP + CIRMMT live electronics framework (CLEF).

Final Project:

Your Final project will be a 5-minute composition for solo instrument and live electronics, i.e. including real-time signal processing of the instrumental part during the performance of your piece. The instrumental part (i.e. live audio input) will be simulated using a sound file that you can prepare using editing techniques (splicing, cutting, etc.), however, no added audio effects or processing. For the composition of the live-electronics part you will use the “CLEF” software, a higher-level composition and performance framework developed at CIRMMT and used for this course.

Media:

This is a computer music course. The use of laptops in class is encouraged, however exclusively for following the course content. No cellphone usage in class.

Tentative Dates:

Class 7 (October 21):	MIDI study Exam
Class 11 (November 18):	Listening Test
Class 13 (December 2):	Theory Exam
“Final Project Day” (December 23):	Final Project

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).