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MUST 210.01: Sequencing, Synthesis and Sampling

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Course Information

Course Title and Number:	Sequencing, Synthesis, and Sampling, MUST 210
Meeting Times and Locations:	MW 10:10 - 11:00AM
Professor:	Dr. Simon Hutchinson
eMail:	simon.hutchinson@montana.edu
Office:	Room 203
Office Hours:	TBA

MUST110 is a prerequisite for MUST210.
If you have not yet taken MUST110, please join us again after you have.

Objectives

- Achieve an understanding of the **fundamentals of designing sound through synthesis and sampling**
- Practice **basic sound synthesis techniques** using Native Instruments' *Reaktor*
- Gain experience thinking and writing critically about contemporary works of electronic music

Texts

- Jeffrey Stolet, *Electronic Music Interactive*,
free online textbook: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/emil/index.php>
- I will post additional materials on Moodle: <http://umonline.umt.edu/>

Other Required Materials

- Storage Media (in the form of thumb drives or portable hard drives)
- You must also keep up with correspondence to your University of Montana account

Grading

Your grade will be weighed as follows:

- Lab Assignments (6) : 24% (4% each)
- Listening Journals (14) : 21% (1.5% each)
- Midterm Examination : 15%
- Midterm Creative Project : 10%
- Final Creative Project : 20%
- Professionalism : 10%
- Concert Attendance/Replacement Paper : **Required**

Additionally, because classroom discussions are a valuable means of understanding course material, I will call roll or distribute a sign-in sheet at each lecture. More than four absences will prevent you from passing the course.

There are no excused absences in this policy, as the reason for an absence does not change the result of missing class material.

If you miss roll call due to tardiness, it will count as an absence.

Lab Assignments

Lab assignments are intended to give students an opportunity to apply the technical concepts discussed in lecture by building your own ensembles in Reaktor. **Late lab assignments will only be accepted on a case-by-case basis (and likely for partial credit).**

These assignments should be completed in the lab, where there is time available from Sunday to Wednesday from 6-11PM.

Listening Journals

Students submit listening in the form as postings on the online forum of Moodle. Each week, we will listen to a piece, and often begin a discussion of that piece in the class session. Following that session, students will continue that discussion online by writing one original topic about the piece and two replies to other students' topics. Listening journals are *due before class on the Monday after the week they are assigned*.

Midterm Creative Project

The midterm project is an opportunity to apply the theories and techniques learned into a short etude/composition. We will discuss the requirements of this project after completion of Lab Assignment #3.

Midterm Examination

The midterm examination, given on Wednesday, **October 15th** (Wednesday of Week 8), evaluates students' understanding of the topics covered in class. We will have an in-class review before the exam, and students should also review their notes, the online courseware, and other lecture materials on their own. If you know in advance that you will absent for the mid-term exam for a legitimate, documented reason and wish to schedule a make-up exam, you must let me know at least one week before the exam.

Final Creative Project

The final project is a creative opportunity for students to apply the theories and techniques learned in this class toward an audio piece for their portfolios. The piece should be a 2-5 minute original composition ***that meets specific technical requirements***. I will give details of these requirements later in the quarter. The final project is due at our scheduled final exam time (Thursday, December 11th, at 8AM), where we will have a final presentation and critique of all projects. **I cannot accept Final projects after the due date. Absence on this day will result in a score of zero on your final project.**

Professionalism

Outside of this classroom, your level of professionalism will be one of the main factors contributing to your success as a composer or in other pursuits. Within the classroom, examples of professionalism include: respect for your colleagues and their ideas, preparation and active participation in class, punctuality, and ethical academic behavior.

Concert Attendance / Paper Requirement

Your attendance is required at the following two concerts:

Tuesday, September 30th, 7:30PM – **Mountain Computer Music Festival** MRH

Thursday, November 20th, 7:30PM – **New Music Missoula** MRH

In lieu of attending any concert, you may write a ten-page scholarly essay on a topic of my choosing (with full bibliographic references) as a surrogate for the concert experience. These papers are due before the end of the day on Friday of Week 15.

Failure to attend a concert or submit the optional paper will prevent you from passing the class, no exceptions.

I present these requirements in the syllabus at the beginning of the term, so that, if the concert dates or the papers post and issue, you have the option to drop the class and register for a different course or register for MUST 210 in a different semester when you are able to fulfill the course requirements.

Laptop Policy

I do not permit the use of laptop computers (including iPads, Blackberries, Cellular Phones, etc.) during the lecture and discussion portions of the class. Our department is very interested in technology and its artistic and academic applications, but laptops are not appropriate for taking notes in this class, and we wish to avoid the potential for distraction to both laptop users and nearby students.

Of course, the computers in 203 should be used for working in Reaktor and DP during our lab sessions, but not during discussions and lectures.

Cellphone Policy

Students may **not** use cellular phones in class. Cell phones ringing in class are inappropriate, discourteous and disruptive. All devices must be set to silent. If your cell phone rings in class, the appropriate response is for you to promptly turn it off, quietly gather up your belongings, and leave for the day. Additionally, students may not engage in text messaging during class sessions.

Academic Honesty

All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the "Student Conduct Code" available here: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

We take violations very seriously and they will be noted on student disciplinary records. **We will not tolerate any dishonesty or plagiarism.** If you are in doubt regarding any aspect of these issues as they pertain to this course, please consult with me before you complete any relevant requirements of the course.

To be clear: **Digitally copying other students' labs or parts of their labs is plagiarism.** You are welcome to work together and help each other with assignments, but digitally copied Reaktor files or portions thereof are very easy to detect and will result in you failing the course and possibly facing greater disciplinary action. **It is not worth it.**

Disability Services

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable program modifications in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program modifications. If you are already working with Disability Services arrange to meet with me during my office hours to discuss reasonable modifications that may be necessary. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at <http://www.umt.edu/disability>.