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MUST 110.02: Digital Audio and Multitracking

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MUST U 110, Digital Audio and Multitracking, 2 credits
Spring 2016

Thomas Pertis
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Schedule:

Section 1 meets Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2:10 pm - 3:00 pm, in the Lab, room 202.

Section 2 meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 11:10 am - 12:00 pm, in the Lab, room 202.

Lab time will be available Sundays-Wednesdays from 6:00-11:00 pm, for weeks 2-14, in the Lab.

Office hours are by appointment, in my office, room 108.

Description:

MUST 110 is an introductory course in computer music composition, a project-based class that covers the theory and application of digital audio recording, processing, multitracking, mixing, and spatialization, using Peak and Digital Performer software. There is no prerequisite for taking this class.

The process of composing with recorded sound will be discussed, software will be demonstrated, and recordings of representative pieces will be presented for study, in class. Students are expected to discuss the current topic, practice using the software, and take notes on their observations, during class.

Each student will produce a Midterm Project and a Final Composition, meant to promote an understanding of the computer music techniques studied, as well as the software demonstrated in class, through creative experimentation. Work on the Midterm Project and Final Composition must be done in the Workstation and Lab. Work done in home studios will not be accepted. The Final Exam will be a written essay test covering topics presented in the lectures, and will include identification of software tools.

Materials:

Each student will need a flash drive, for handing in assignments and backing up files. Each student should regularly backup their work from the hard disks on the computers in the Lab and Studio. Flash drives can be purchased from the Bookstore.

Grades:

The Midterm Project and Final Composition will each count as 40% of the final grade, and will be graded on creative effort and demonstrated technical understanding. The Final Exam will count as 20% of the final grade.

Attendance is mandatory, and excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade. In addition, each student will be required to attend the UM Composers Showcase Events.

Extra credit may be made available, changes may be made to the requirements of the course, and optional classes may be added, to benefit the students. Students with disabilities or special needs should talk with the instructor about their needs.

Calendar:

Week 1	Class overview, facilities
Weeks 2-4	Peak
Weeks 5-6	Digital Performer
Week 7	Midterm Project presentations
Week 8	Midterm Project revision presentations
Week 9-10	Peak
Week 11-13	Digital Performer
Week 14	Final Project presentations
Week 15	Final Project revision presentations
Week 16	Final Exam

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umd.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321.