MUSC2803

Creative Sound Technologies

Term Three // 2019

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Adam Hulbert	a.hulbert@unsw.edu.au	During consultation hours or by appointment	108 Robert Webster	9385 1115

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Heather Contant	h.contant@unsw.edu.au	Tutorial	140 Robert Webster	N/A
Tom Phillipson	s.phillipson@unsw.edu.au	Tutorial	140 Robert Webster	N/A
Hamish Dixon	hamish.dixon@unsw.edu.au	Tutorial	140 Robert Webster	N/A

School Contact Information

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Music*

This course provides an introduction to sound technology and its creative applications. You will evaluate a range of conceptual, stylistic and aesthetic approaches to sound-making, including the concept of soundscape, and the relationship between sound and film.

You will gain foundational technical skills in audio technology, from portable digital recording through to sequencing, sampling, mixing, editing and post-production within the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). Projects are structured around creative applications of these technologies. The course fosters and encourages collaborations between Screen and Sound Production and Sonic Arts/Music students.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Create original sound and music using digital technologies in a Digital Audio Workstation environment.
2. Apply foundational technical skills in recording, editing and mixing sound to creative projects.
3. Demonstrate analytical, critical and listening skills.

Teaching Strategies

Rationale for the inclusion of content and teaching approach

Online lectures and curated links present core concepts of the course. A weekly two-hour workshop introduces practical techniques and applications of sound recording: including sampling, sequencing, editing, mixing, and postproduction using a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

Teaching strategies

Online lectures and explorations introduce key concepts such as: the fundamentals of sound design and the principles of digital technologies; evaluation of key electronic/electroacoustic music ideas; central themes and issues around making sound for moving image.

A two-hour workshop provides practical tutelage on--and experience with--software applications, as well as addressing practical techniques and applications of sound recording. Workshops will cover sampling, sequencing, editing, mixing, and post-production through the Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

In this setting students will be encouraged to work independently on set tasks, and to seek guidance from their peers or the tutor where needed.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Remix	30%	18/10/2019 05:00 PM	1,2
Research paper	25%	01/11/2019 05:00 PM	3
Creative Sound Project	45%	22/11/2019 05:00 PM	1,2,3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Remix

Start date:

Length: 2-4 mins

Details: 2-4 mins. Written feedback from instructor.

Additional details:

See moodle for details.

Assessment 2: Research paper

Start date:

Length: 1500 words

Details: 1500 words. Feedback via LMS.

Additional details:

See moodle for details.

Assessment 3: Creative Sound Project

Start date:

Length: length of supplied animation

Details: 1-3 mins. Self-assessment and written feedback provided.

Additional details:

See moodle for details.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 16 September - 20 September	Topic	**Welcome to Creative Sound Technologies!** The lecture content for this course is online. This is a flexible way of learning, and should allow for a more exploratory approach to the material. Please log in to Moodle where there is introduction to the course. **The Sound Object and the Soundscape** The online activities for week 1 will help us to think about the world of sound around us, and explore listening as the foundation for creative musical practice. In the tutorials, you'll be using the Zoom H4N field recording equipment. We'll also discuss the concept of 'the sound object'. This is the idea of using actual chunks of sound, rather than notes, as the basis for composition, and it dates back at least as far as the use of tape splicing in the 1950s. The sound object forms the basis for editing in a Digital Audio Workstation, and in the tutorials you'll start moving around sound objects in Avid's Pro Tools software. Pro Tools is common in studios around the world, and is used extensively for sound design. By the end of this subject you should be competent with this software.
Week 2: 23 September - 27 September	Topic	**Manufacturing Time and Space** This week we explore the way space can be created in compositions, especially through the art of soundscape composition. We'll also explore the ways the time can be used as a tool for composition: from the tiniest moment to pieces of

		music that can go on for years.
		In the tutorial you'll explore these ideas using tools such as time stretching, elastic audio, reverberation and granular synthesis.
Week 3: 30 September - 4 October		**Synthesis and Algorithms**
		This week we explore models of sound and acoustics that led to synthesis, and consider some of the ways synthesisers have been used in composition.
		In the tutorial, we'll start adding various types of synthesis to our approaches to composition. You'll also learn how to use MIDI in Pro Tools.
Week 4: 7 October - 11 October	Topic	**The Art of Mixing**
		In preparation for the remix assignment, we'll go deeper into the exploration of the art mixing, exploring techniques for both music and sound design.
		In the tutorial, you'll explore some fundamentals of mixing, including compression, equalisation and output formats.
Week 5: 14 October - 18 October	Studio	**Mixing Week**
		There are no tutorials or lectures this week. Please make use of the labs to work on your remix.
Week 6: 21 October - 25 October	Topic	**Synchronising Sound and Image**
		Something powerful happens when sound and moving image come together! The week we explore ways in which we can start to understand and work with this relationship through music videos and video art. Over the next few weeks we'll explore this more specifically through case studies from cinema, games and animation.
		In the tutorial you'll experiment with combining image and sound within Pro Tools.

Week 7: 28 October - 1 November	Topic	**Case Studies: Sound Design for Cinema** This week we explore some approaches to film scoring. At this stage, you should have everything you need to start working on your final composition in the tutorials over the next few weeks.
Week 8: 4 November - 8 November	Topic	**Case Studies: Sound Design and Animation** In the online explorations, we'll explore some specific case studies of the use of sound and animation. In the tutorials, you can continue working on your final project. At this stage you may also want to workshop any difficulties you may be having with your tutor.
Week 9: 11 November - 15 November	Topic	**Case Studies: Sound Design for Games and VR** In the online explorations, we'll explore some specific case studies of the use of sound and animation. In the tutorials, you can continue to work on your final project in preparation for next week's screening.
Week 10: 18 November - 22 November	Screening	**Screening** This week we wrap up the course, and suggest some opportunities for further exploration. You will be screening your projects during the tutorial. This is an excellent chance to enjoy and comment on the work of your peers.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- You'll need a dedicated hard drive for audio material (not thumb drive). This will allow you to store all your files and explorations as you progress through the course, and allow you to work on the larger video files that are part of the final assignment.

- Bring your own headphones.

- Note that loan of Zoom Field recorders for assignments is encouraged, but requires successful use in week one, or an orientation as approved by the Technical Resource Centre. Field recorders and synthesizers can be booked through the TRC website: https://trc.arts.unsw.edu.au/self-help/booking-equipment.

Recommended Resources

For this course, I recommend Bobby Owsinski's The Mixing Engineer's Handbook 4th Edition (http://www.bobbyowsinski.com/mixing-engineers-handbook.html)

This very practical approach to mixing is an invaluable resource for this subject and for future production and mixing projects. Copies are available at the library and via the UNSW Bookshop.

Course Evaluation and Development

Evaluation is via myExperience survey at the end of semester. Please see Moodle site for an outline of recently implemented changes.

I deeply value feedback from students both through conversations as well as the more formal proceedures, and your thoughts about the course will help it to grow. If you have suggestions or gripes about the course, please feel free to contact me at a.hulbert@unsw.edu.au at any time, visit during consultation hours or make an appointment to come and chat with me about the course and your experience. If you have materials that you think might be interesting to myself or the course, I'd love you to pass them on.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

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