

MUSC3806

Synergies in Sound Technology

Term 3, 2021



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Adam Hulbert	a.hulbert@unsw.edu.au	Email for consultation	Robert Webster 110	Contact via Teams

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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Website: www.arts.unsw.edu.au/sam

Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

This course allows you to develop your understanding and practice of sound synthesis and audio production, with an emphasis on multi-speaker and immersive environments. Through practical assessments, you'll have access to industry-standard recording studios, specialist audio software and hardware synthesisers. You'll explore historical and contemporary approaches to modular and fixed-architecture synthesis, as well as learning methods for studio recording and post-production using 5.1 surround and ambisonic audio for VR. Your creative work in this course builds on the skills and approaches developed in MDIA1005/MUSC2803.


Course Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate analytical, critical and listening skills in the field of electronic music production.
2. Demonstrate an ability to work with a range of software and hardware tools for music recording and creation.
3. Demonstrate a conceptually-based approach to composing for spatial audio.

Teaching Strategies

Lectures and supplementary online materials will introduce theory, history, practical tutorials and other important content. These will be offered for viewing or reading in connection to the themes of the class each week. A weekly studio class allows you to develop practical techniques and applications in a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) using specialist software.

Assessment

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Studio Recording Project 	25%	08/10/2021 05:00 PM	2, 3
2. Research Task	30%	29/10/2021 11:59 PM	1
3. Composition Project	45%	19/11/2021 05:00 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment 1: Studio Recording Project (Group)

Assessment length: See moodle for details

Submission notes: Submission of audio, plus short description

Due date: 08/10/2021 05:00 PM

Collaborative studio-based recording and mixing (3-5 mins).

Feedback via LMS

This is not a Turnitin assignment

Additional details

Details on Moodle

Assessment 2: Research Task

Assessment length: 2000 words

Due date: 29/10/2021 11:59 PM

Written response to a task based on course materials and further research.

2000 words.

Feedback via LMS

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

Details on Moodle.

Assessment 3: Composition Project

Assessment length: 3-5 mins

Submission notes: Audio plus short description.

Due date: 19/11/2021 05:00 PM

Original composition for spatial audio (approx. 5 mins).

Feedback via LMS

Additional details

Details available on Moodle.

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: 13 September - 17 September	Topic	Field Recording and Soundscape Composition
Week 2: 20 September - 24 September	Topic	Site-Specific Installations
Week 3: 27 September - 1 October	Topic	Synthesis and Sound Dispersion
Week 4: 4 October - 8 October	Topic	Quadraphonics
Week 5: 11 October - 15 October	Studio	Studio as a Compositional Tool
Week 6: 18 October - 22 October	Homework	Flexweek <i>No lectures or tutorials this week</i>
Week 7: 25 October - 29 October	Topic	Approaches to Dolby 5.1
Week 8: 1 November - 5 November	Topic	Spatial Audio and Virtual Reality
Week 9: 8 November - 12 November	Topic	Final Project: Discussion of Approaches
Week 10: 15 November - 19 November	Topic	Course Review and Next Steps

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Please come prepared with an external hard drive to store your audio and video.

Recommended Resources

It would be useful to bring your own decent quality headphones for work in the labs.

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is continually evolving through student feedback,. The myExperience evaluations are all closely read, but feel free also to contact me with ideas or even gripes as we progress through the course: a.hulbert@unsw.edu.au.

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 includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original 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 for the purpose of them plagiarising, 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

The [UNSW Academic Skills support](#) offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. 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 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

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided.)

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

Todd Barton on the Buchla Music Easel, adaptation by Princess Suyat.

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