Tulane University School of Liberal Arts – Newcomb Department of Music
Composition for Electronic Media I APMS 2230-03 Course Syllabus
Credit hours, 2 Spring 2024

Instructor: Erin Demastes
Class location: Dixon Hall 261
Class hours:11am-12:30pm or 4pm-5:30pm
Office hours: In-person on Mondays or appointment via zoom, please email to schedule
Email address: edemast89@gmail.com
Course website: tinyurl.com/electronic-comp

Course Description:
In this course we examine theoretical and practical aspects of the study of Composition for Electronic Media. Students taking this course for the first time will be instructed based on their prior experience level with Computer Music Software and Music Composition. Students without prior Computer Music Experience will first be coached on the use and manipulation of recorded material in Computer Music Composition. Next, students will be coached on the use of sound synthesis and digital synthesizers in large scale music composition. If students continue with the study of Music Composition for Electronic Media topics such as Surround Sound Spatialization, Immersive Audio, Audio Visual Intermedia, Algorithmic Composition, Acoustic Electronic Music Integration among other topics will be covered. Those students with a great deal of experience will be pushed outside their comfort zone with personal challenges tailored to music we listen to and study over the course of the semester as well as the student's personal interest.

The course also seeks to involve the student in the presentation of computer music through the organization of concerts of computer music during the semester. There will be special concerts at the end of the semester produced by the students in the class featuring works by students in the class. Each student will be expected to take part in the organization, production, and setup/takedown involved in the concert. Additional special chances to place computer music in the public arena will be undertaken by the class when the opportunity arises.

Outcomes:
After taking this course the student will have gained a familiarity with many of the tools and techniques associated with Contemporary Computer Music Composition. The student will have gained practice through the completion of at least one unique large-scale computer music composition. The student will be able to identify many of the current trends, composers, and important works in the field and will be able to place his/her own work in relation to these trends. The student will also have gained an understanding of the technical requirements involved in putting on large-scale presentations of creative computer music.

Software required:
A Digital Audio Workstation (DAW), option include:
Reaper (free download/indefinite trial at: http://www.cockos.com/reaper/download.php)
Audacity (free download at https://www.audacityteam.org/)

Ableton (available on the computer in Dixon 261 and on the computers in Dixon 207)
Logic Pro (available on the computer in Dixon 261 and on the computers in Dixon 207)
Adobe Audition (available on the computers in Dixon 207 and many other computers around campus)

Assignments:
The student is expected to compose between 2-4 large scale new musical works over the course of the semester combined with weekly short exercises. Students taking the course for the first time will compose several shorter pieces before embarking on a longer-term project near the end of the semester.
A note on due dates: Students must submit assignments through email or Canvas. Late assignments will be accepted up to one week late for 90% credit, or until the last day of classes for 75% credit

Final Project:
The student will assist in the production of 2-3 concerts of Electronic and Computer music over the course of the semester. The student will publicly present a completed work on at least one of these concerts.

Submitting assignments:
Weekly progress is assessed based on presentation in our meetings. Students may bring their own computer with their work on it. Files may also be accessed in the computer music studio for audition. The class will also make use of a SoundCloud link for students to upload their tracks.

Assessment:
50% weekly assignments and attendance
10% concert attendance
10% concert production assistance
30% final project presentation

The final assessment will be made on a standard letter grade scale:
97-100: A+   87-89: B+   77-79: C+   67-69: D+   59 and below: F
94-96: A   84-86: B   74-76: C   64-66: D
90-93: A-   80-83: B-   70-73: C-   60-63: D-
The passing grade for Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading option is 75 and above.