

# COMPUTERS & MUSIC

Introduction to Music Technology

Music 200 | Fall 2013

[Course Website](#)

## LECTURES

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## LABS

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## OBJECTIVES

Computers & Music explores the physics, history and production of music technology and digital sound. Students completing Music 200 will have a theoretical as well as practical knowledge of computer music that includes first-hand experience in the Multimedia Lab, where they will use software and hardware tools to complete creative assignments. Through texts and active listening exercises, students examine the history of music technology within popular and experimental genres, focusing on the interplay of new technologies and musical thought in the electronic era.

## STRUCTURE

**Lectures** are held in Martinos Auditorium (Granoff Center) Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:50. Lectures will introduce new material and concepts, and will include listening and analysis.

**Labs sections** will meet once a week for an hour and provide hands-on training in the Multimedia Lab. An important part of the lab will be creating music together and listening to each other's assignments. *You must be signed up for a lab and attend the lab to receive a grade in the class.*

<b>Lectures</b>	<b>Tuesday &amp; Thursday</b>	<b>10:30 - 11:50</b>	<b>Martinos Auditorium</b>
<b>Office hours</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>12:00 – 1:00</b>	<b>Granoff (or by appointment)</b>
<b>Lab Sections</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>Multimedia Lab</b>

## REQUIREMENTS

### I. Listening/Reading Assignments

Weekly reading and listening assignments will be posted online and should be completed before each class.

### II. Writing

5-page Research Paper | November 22<sup>nd</sup> by 10:30am (Proposals by October 23).

### III. Lab Projects

Three lab projects will be used to gain practical experience with music technology. Projects will be played and discussed in lab sections. *Due Fridays by midnight!*

10.4	<b>Project 1: Audio Autobiography</b>
10.25	<b>Project 2: Site and Sound</b>
11.9	<b>Project 3: Sequencing Time</b>
12.6	<b>Final Project   original computer music composition (~3 minutes)</b>

### IV. Exams

11.01	<b>Midterm Exam</b>
12.13	<b>Final Exam</b>

## TEXTS

Holmes, Thom. *Electronic and Experimental Music: Technology, Music, and Culture*. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition. (Required)

Cox, Christoph & Warner, Daniel. *Audio Culture: Readings in Modern Music*. (Suggested)

Hass, Jeffrey. Introduction to Electronic Music (Online)

## GRADING

Midterm exam	15%
Final exam	25%
Three lab projects	15% (3x5)
Final lab project	25%
Research paper	20%

Lecture attendance and lab attendance and participation will also be considered in the final grade.

No makeup exams will be given.

Late assignments will receive a lower grade and will only be accepted up to 1 week past the due date.

*The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to this syllabus.*

## **LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

(Reading and Listening for each lecture is posted online)

**09.05 | Overview & Logistics**

**09.10 | Recording & the Phonograph**

**09.12 | What is Sound?**

**09.17 | Early Electronic Instruments**

**09.19 | Music Concrete**

**09.24 | Electronic Music in the American Avant-Garde**

**09.26 | Process Music and Minimalisms**

**10.01 | Studio Recording**

**10.03 | Rock Innovations**

**10.08 | Digital Audio and Early Computer Music**

**10.10 | Analog Synthesizers**

**10.15 | Funk, Soul & Fusion**

**10.17 | Ambient Music**

**10.22 | Krautrock & New Wave**

**10.24 | Disco & Synthpop**

**10.29 | Dub and Early Hip-Hop**

**10.31 | Midterm**

**11.05 | Test Review / Electronic Voices**

**11.07 | House, Techno, & the Origins of EDM**

**11.12 | Music of Disturbance I (Punk, Noise)**

**11.14 | Music of Disturbance II (Industrial+)**

**11.19 | EDM, IDM and Electronica**

**11.21 | Guest Lecture (Thom Holmes)**

**11.26 | Race, Gender, & Technology / Visual Music**

**11.28 | - - - TG - - -**

**12.03 | Sound Art, Sampling & Plunderphonics**

**12.05 | Data Sonification**

**12.10 | Controllerism & Cyborg Performance**

**12.12 | Future Trends & Review**

**12.13 | Final Exam (9:00am, Martinos Auditorium)**