

Electronics Ensemble Syllabus (MULB 1822)

Meeting Times and Location:

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 – 3:20

Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theater (Music Building 2001)

Course Credit Hours: (1)

Instructor:

Benjamin Shirey

Contact: BenjaminShirey@my.unt.edu | 903-268-3948

In-Person Office Hours: TBD

Zoom Office Hours: *By Appointment*

Enrollment Information:

This ensemble is required for Electronics Concentrations and is otherwise available by audition and through consultation with the student's area of concentration. The ensemble will collaborate on group performances, but members may also be assigned to other performing ensembles as appropriate.

Course Structure:

Primary Goal:

Students will collaborate to create and perform music using various electronic devices, including computers, tablets, smartphones, and electronic instruments. Each student is responsible for their equipment and must be prepared to contribute professionally to weekly rehearsals and the final performance.

Performance Goals:

Students will work in small groups of 3-4 to compose, design, and rehearse a 15-20 minute "Set" throughout the semester. These Sets will be combined and performed live at the final concert.

Expanded Course Goals:

1. Integration of Technology and Musicianship:
 - Students will develop proficiency in integrating advanced electronic instruments and software with traditional musicianship, fostering a deep understanding of both the technical and creative aspects of electronic performance.
2. Collaboration and Innovation:
 - Students will engage in collaborative composition and performance, pushing the boundaries of traditional ensemble work through innovative use of technology. This includes experimenting with new interfaces, coding for sound, incorporating multimedia elements into performances, and exploring AI-driven tools for sound design, composition, and real-time performance enhancement.

3. Creative Exploration and Personal Voice:
 - Students will explore and develop their personal artistic voice within the context of electronic music, encouraging creative risk-taking and the exploration of unconventional soundscapes and performance practices.
4. Professionalism and Industry Readiness:
 - Students will cultivate professional practices in preparation for careers in electronic music, including effective communication, project management, and performance etiquette.

Course Expectations:

Practice Expectations:

Students are expected to dedicate some individual and/or group practice each week outside of class. The exact time may vary depending on the complexity of each group's project. Consistent practice is crucial for successful performances.

Professionalism:

When using the CEMI studios and MEIT, students must treat all equipment with respect and maintain a clean workspace. This includes picking up after themselves and ensuring that the studios are left in good condition for the next users.

Critiques:

In addition to the primary goals above, students are expected to participate in seminar-like critiques throughout the semester. They will present their work and provide constructive feedback on their own and their peers' work. Respectful, honest critique is essential. The Ensemble Director will make all final decisions on performances, repertoire, and group assignments, with the authority to adjust as needed for the ensemble's success.

Grading Criteria:

- Class Participation and Professionalism: 35%
- Musical Preparation (Rehearsals): 30%
- Public Performance: 30%
- Second-Week Presentations: 5%

Grading Scale:

- A (90-100%): Outstanding musicianship, excellent preparation, and superb participation.
- B (80-89%): Very good musicianship, preparation, and participation.
- C (70-79%): Average musicianship, preparation, and participation.
- D (60-69%): Moderate to poor musicianship, preparation, and participation.
- F (<60%): Unacceptable musicianship, preparation, and participation

Attendance Policy:

Attendance at all rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Absences must be communicated before class via email or phone. Failure to notify the Instructor of an absence in advance may result in the absence being unexcused. As the Ensemble Director, I reserve the right to excuse or not excuse each absence on a case-by-case basis. While doctor's notes are preferred for health-related absences, I will consider each situation individually.

Late Arrival Penalty:

Being late to class or rehearsals will result in a deduction from your participation grade for the day:

- Arriving more than 10 minutes late will result in a 20% reduction in your participation grade for that session.
- Arriving more than 30 minutes late will result in a 50% reduction in your participation grade for that session.

Excused Absences:

Absences will be eligible for excuse if:

- You notify me in advance about your absence (unless it is an emergency).
- You provide documentation (such as a doctor's note) when applicable.

Unexcused Absences:

Unexcused absences can reduce your final grade by up to 40%, depending on the number of missed sessions and their impact on the ensemble's performance.

If you miss or are late to too many rehearsals or performances, **you may not be allowed to participate in a performance capacity in the final show**. This policy is designed to help maintain a professional environment and ensure the success of our group performances. Please make every effort to attend and arrive on time.

All students should review the relevant UNT course information Below.

Academic Integrity:

Cheating or plagiarism will result in a "0" for the assignment and may be reported to the Dean of Students for further penalties.

[Academic Integrity](#)

Student Behavior:

Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and may result in removal from class and referral to the Dean of Students.

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

Eagle Connect:

All official UNT communications are sent to your Eagle Connect account.

[Eagle Connect](#)

ODA Statement:

Students with disabilities should register with the Office of Disability Access for accommodations.

[Office of Disability Access](#) | Phone: (940) 565-4323

Health and Safety:

Information on student health and wellness.

[Health and Safety](#)

Registration Information:

Details on registration procedures.

[Registration Information](#)

Fall 2024 Academic Calendar:

Important dates and deadlines.

[Fall 2024 Academic Calendar](#)

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress:

Requirements for maintaining financial aid eligibility.

[Financial Aid - Undergraduates](#)

[Financial Aid - Graduates](#)

FERPA:

Your rights regarding student records.

[FERPA](#)

Counseling and Testing:

Counseling services for students.

[Counseling and Testing](#)

[Mental Health Resources](#)

Add/Drop Policy:

Impact of dropping classes on financial aid and enrollment status.

[Drop Information](#)

Student Resources:

Comprehensive list of UNT student resources.

[Student Resources](#)

Care Team:

Support for students, staff, and faculty in crisis.

[Care Team](#)

Course Schedule (subject to change)

08/20: Introductions & Syllabus Day

08/22: Student Presentations

08/27: Group 1/Group 2

08/29: Group 3/Group 4

09/03: Group 1/Group 2

09/05: Group 3/Group 4

09/10: Group 1/Group 2

09/12: Group 3/Group 4

09/17: Group 1/Group 2

09/19: Group 3/Group 4

09/24: Group 1/Group 2

09/26: Group 3/Group 4

10/01: Group 1/Group 2 *FIRST DRAFTS DUE*

10/03: Group 3/Group 4 *FIRST DRAFTS DUE*

10/08: Group 1/Group 2

10/10: Group 3/Group 4

10/15: Group 1/Group 2 – Mid Term Critique TBD

10/17: Group 3/Group 4 – Mid Term Critique TBD

10/22: Group 1/Group 2

10/24: Group 3/Group 4

10/29: Group 1/Group 2

10/31: Group 3/Group 4

11/05: Group 1/Group 2

11/07: Group 3/Group 4

11/12: *** Ian Dicke Visit ***

11/14: Tech Rehearsal

11/19: Full Rehearsal (all hands)

11/21: Full Rehearsal (all hands)

11/26: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

11/28: No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

12/03: Full Rehearsal (all hands) & CONCERT AT 8 PM

12/05: TBD

12/10: TBD

12/12: TBD