

Electronics Ensemble Syllabus (MULB 1822)

SP 2025

Meeting Times and Location:

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00 – 3:20

Merrill Ellis Intermedia Theater (Music Building 2001)

Course Credit Hours: (1)

Director:

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 perform established repertoire chosen by the director and create original ensemble works. Performances will incorporate 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 2-5 to rehearse assigned repertoire. The repertoire will range from traditional scored works to pieces requiring significant creative interpretation, allowing students to reimagine and reinterpret the material through unique and innovative approaches. In addition, groups will compose, design, and rehearse short 5-7 minute original group works to accompany these existing pieces. No solo compositions will be allowed. These original works combined with the selected repertoire will be presented live at the final concert.

National Call for Works

This semester, the UNT Electronic Ensemble (E²) will perform works selected through a national call for submissions, emphasizing innovative and boundary-pushing creativity. Ensemble members assigned to these pieces are expected to approach them with professionalism, thoroughly preparing and rehearsing their roles. Each member will

collaborate to master the technical, musical, and creative aspects of the work, ensuring the composer's vision is realized. The ensemble is dedicated to delivering polished, engaging performances of these works at the Spring 2025 concert.

Expanded Course Goals:

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.

Collaboration and Innovation:

Students will engage in collaborative rehearsals and performances, 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 other tools for sound design, composition, and real-time performance enhancement.

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.

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.

Discussions

Weekly discussions will focus on building a deeper knowledge of live electronic repertoire. These activities are designed to encourage critical listening, analysis, and engagement with key works in the field, fostering a collaborative exploration of techniques, concepts, and performance practices. Active participation is essential to expand our collective understanding and inspire creativity within the ensemble.

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

Rurbric:

- Attendance: 15%
- Assignments: 20%
- Class Participation and Professionalism: 25%
- Musical Preparation (Rehearsals): 25%
- Public Performance: 25%

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 and Tardiness:

Attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences can reduce your final grade by up to 40%. Notify the instructor in advance for absences. Tardiness will result in Attendance grade deductions: 20% for being over 10 minutes late and 50% for being over 30 minutes late. Habitual lateness will be addressed individually.

Unexcused Absences:

Unexcused absences can significantly impact your final grade, reducing it by up to 40%. While Attendance accounts for only 15% of the grading rubric, repeated absences will also affect your Professionalism and Musical Preparation (Rehearsals) grades. The severity of the impact will depend on the number of missed sessions and their effect on the ensemble's overall performance.

Excessive absences or tardiness to rehearsals or performances may result in you being unable to participate in the final show in a performance capacity. Instead, you may be asked to assist with front-of-house (FOH) duties. This policy is in place to maintain a professional environment and ensure the success of our group performances. Please make every effort to attend all sessions and arrive on time.

Spring 2025 Schedule (Subject to change)

01/14: Introductions & Syllabus Day
01/16: TBD
01/21: TBD
01/23: TBD
01/28: TBD
01/30: TBD
02/04: TBD
02/06: TBD
02/11: TBD
02/13: TBD
02/18: Call for Scores Closes
02/20: Tech Riders Due (First Draft)
02/25: TBD
02/27: TBD
03/04: Mid-Terms Presentations
03/06: Mid-Terms Presentations
03/11: No Class (Spring Break)
03/13: No Class (Spring Break)
03/18: TBD
03/20: TBD
03/25: Tech Riders (Final Due)
03/27: TBD
04/01: Hard Dead Line for Original Pieces
04/03: Hard Dead Line for Original Pieces
04/08: TBD
04/10: TBD
04/15: TBD
04/17: Tech Day

04/22: Full Rehearsal (All Hands)
04/24: Full Rehearsal (All Hands)
04/29: **ALL DAY** - CONCERT AT 8 PM

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 2025 Academic Calendar:

Important dates and deadlines.

[Fall 2025 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](#)