

MUAC 1540 Private Lessons in Electronics

Tuesday/Thursday 3:30pm-4:50pm MU322

Final Exam Tuesday, December 7th 1:30-3:30

Instructor Contact

Name: Jonathan Andrew Smith

Pronouns: He/Him

Office Location: CEMI Office (MU2001)

Phone Number: 678-850-5823

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00am-12:00pm or by appointment

Email: andrewsmith16@my.unt.edu

Communication Expectations: Most class communication will take place on Canvas (unt.instructure.com), including announcements, grades, assignment due dates, and any updates or changes to the class structure. Questions, comments, concerns, and grievances can be addressed to me by email or via canvas messaging. Please see CLEAR's [Online Communication Tips](#) for guidance on academic communication.

Welcome to UNT!

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT's full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Course Description

Study of the theory and practice of electroacoustic composition, including a survey of the literature, audio techniques, and studio hardware / software use. Course projects focus on electroacoustic music applications, practical exercises, and original composition.

Course Structure

All assignments, quizzes, examples, supplemental materials, and listenings can be found on canvas. Lectures will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30pm to 4:50pm in room MU322 in the music building.

Course Prerequisites

Prerequisite(s): 6 hours of composition courses or consent of college.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compose electronic and electroacoustic music using Reaper or another digital audio workstation.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of synthesis techniques and the basics of digital synthesis.
3. Demonstrate a basic understanding of electronic music history and aesthetics.
4. Record and edit samples for the production of electronic music.
5. Use a variety of software and hardware including, but not limited to, microphones, portable recorders, audio interfaces, and common plugins.
6. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of sound, digital audio, and experimental computer music principles.

Materials

Optional texts

- Hass, Jeffrey. *Introduction to Computer Music*. Online resource: <https://cmtext.indiana.edu/index.php>.
- Roads, Curtis. *The Computer Music Tutorial*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1994.

Required Software

- Reaper Digital Audio Workstation <https://www.reaper.fm> (Unlimited free trial available)

Teaching Philosophy

First and foremost, this is a composition course; my priority is to enable each student's creativity using the means of electronic and computer music to create new and interesting musical material. This will be enabled through extensive listening to a variety of electronic music and critical evaluation of that music as well as the introduction of new techniques and musical ideas to students. Each student is assigned three primary composition projects with the goal of expanding their creativity and musical ability when working with electronic media.

Course Technology & Skills

Minimum Technology Requirements

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Reaper Digital Audio Workstation <https://www.reaper.fm>
- [Canvas Technical Requirements](#)
- Headphones

Technical Assistance

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight

- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328)

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- When engaging in listening to music that you are not familiar or comfortable with, think critically and honestly about the content of the music. Articulate your feelings about the music clearly and honestly and examine your own biases to challenge yourself each week.

See these [Engagement Guidelines](https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Course Requirements

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade
Project 1 – Sample Library	10%
Project 2 – Soundscape/Sample Composition 1	10%
Project 3 – Synthesis Composition	10%
Listening Responses • 11 total	15%
Quizzes • 3 total	10%
Midterm Project	20%
Final Project	25%
Total Percentage	100%

Grading

A = 90-100

B = 80-89

C = 70-79

D = 60-69

F = 50-59

All assignments are expected to be turned in by midnight the date that they are due. Late work will only be accepted with the instructor's explicit written approval before the assignment is due. It is at the instructor's discretion whether late work will be accepted or if there will be a point deduction for late assignments. Extensions will not be granted the day an assignment is due except in case of emergency or unforeseeable circumstances.

Course Evaluation

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is the student evaluation system for UNT and allows students the ability to confidentially provide constructive feedback to their instructor and department to improve the quality of student experiences in the course. It is extremely important for every student to fill out the SPOT evaluations and give feedback to instructors. Spot Evaluations will be available 11/15/2021.

Course Policies

Face Coverings

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the instructor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the instructor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the instructor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.

If you are experiencing any [symptoms of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>) please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.

Course Materials for Remote Instruction

Remote instruction may be necessary if community health conditions change or you need to self-isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19. Students will need access to a [webcam and microphone – faculty member to include what other basic equipment is needed] to participate in fully remote portions of the

class. Additional required classroom materials for remote learning include: [list specific software, supplies, equipment or system requirements needed for the course]. Information on how to be successful in a remote learning environment can be found at <https://online.unt.edu/learn>

Class Participation

Each student is expected to participate fully in classes at all times. Students will be asked to answer and ask questions, share their music or work with the class, and participate meaningfully in classroom discussions as requested by the instructor.

Assignment Policy

All assignments and their due dates will be posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester, and any changes to assignment due dates will be posted in announcements as well as changed to be reflected on Canvas. All assignments are to be submitted digitally by uploading a file to the Canvas assignment page or by pasting text into the assignment page for listening responses. It is recommended that you type your listening responses in a separate application prior to posting to save a backup in case of a malfunction or error.

The University is committed to providing a reliable online course system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Instructor Responsibilities and Feedback

It is the instructor's responsibility to provide timely feedback on all assignments, including numerical grades where applicable. All assignment grades and feedback will be given no later than two weeks after the assignment's due date for on-time work. The instructor will respond to any emails within 24 hours during the week with the exception of travel or illness on the instructor's part.

Syllabus Change Policy

The listed topics, due dates, listening assignments, and information listed in the syllabus is liable to change at any time; any changes will be announced and posted on Canvas in a timely manner.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.]

ADA Policy

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the [ODA website \(https://disability.unt.edu/\)](https://disability.unt.edu/).

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct \(https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) to learn more.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail [Eagle Connect](https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect) (<https://it.unt.edu/eagleconnect>).

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex as well as sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-5652648.

Student Verification

UNT takes measures to protect the integrity of educational credentials awarded to students enrolled in distance education courses by verifying student identity, protecting student privacy, and notifying students of any special meeting times/locations or additional charges associated with student identity verification in distance education courses.

See [UNT Policy 07-002 Student Identity Verification, Privacy, and Notification and Distance Education Courses](https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002) (<https://policy.unt.edu/policy/07-002>).

Use of Student Work

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photographs, reports, presentations, and email postings) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is used only once.
- The work is not used in its entirety.
- Use of the work does not affect any potential profits from the work.
- The student is not identified.
- The work is identified as student work.

If the use of the work does not meet all of the above criteria, then the University office or department using the work must obtain the student's written permission.

Academic Support & Student Services

Student Support Services

Mental Health

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- [Student Health and Wellness Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [UNT Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care)
- [UNT Psychiatric Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness-center/services/psychiatry)
- [Individual Counseling](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services/services/individual-counseling)

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT.

- [UNT Records](#)
- [UNT ID Card](#)
- [UNT Email Address](#)
- [Legal Name](#)

**UNT eUIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

Pronouns

Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don't assume someone's name, we should also ask and not assume someone's pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](#) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:

- [What are pronouns and why are they important?](#)
- [How do I use pronouns?](#)
- [How do I share my pronouns?](#)
- [How do I ask for another person's pronouns?](#)
- [How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?](#)

Additional Student Support Services

- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration) (https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/) (https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center) (https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services) (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance) (https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)
- [UNT Food Pantry](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry) (https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources/food-pantry)

Academic Support Services

- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources) (<https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources>)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc) (<https://success.unt.edu/asc>)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/) (<https://library.unt.edu/>)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/) (<http://writingcenter.unt.edu/>)

Course Schedule and Outline

<u>Week 1- August 24-26</u>	
<u>August 24</u> Introduction, Syllabus, and SHMRG <u>August 26</u> Getting Started with Reaper, Importing Audio, File types	<u>Listening 1</u> Leah Reid - <i>Reverie</i> Kendrick Lamar- "LOYALTY." "DUCKWORTH." from <i>DAMN</i> Andrew May- <i>The Twittering Machine</i> Week 1 Survey Due (Aug 26)
<u>Week 2- August 31- September 2</u>	
<u>August 31</u> What is electronic music? Sampling, the Acousmatic Question, and intro to EA aesthetics <u>September 2</u> Basics of digital audio, microphones, Recording Techniques, Hardware 1	<u>Listening 2</u> Mark Applebaum <i>Precomposition</i> Jonty Harrison <i>Unsound Objects</i> J Dilla <i>Donuts</i> Listening Response 1 Due (Aug 31)
<u>Week 3 September 7-9</u>	
<u>September 7</u> Principles of sound; Sound propagation, noise, harmonic series, timbre <u>September 9</u> Crossfades, automation, and plugins	<u>Listening 3</u> Kyong Mee Choi <i>Rare Yet Soft</i> Jonathan Harvey <i>Mortuos Plango, Vivos Voco</i> Denis Smalley- <i>Base Metals</i> Listening Response 2 Due (Sept 7) Project 1 Due (Sept 9)

<u>Week 4 September 14-16</u>	
<u>September 14</u> Filters, EQ, timbre cont. <u>September 16</u> Filtering/EQ, introduction to Delay	<u>Listening 4</u> Natasha Barrett - <i>Red Snow</i> Elainie Lillios- <i>Dreams in the Desert</i> Tonia Ko- <i>Breath, Contained</i> <i>Listening Response 3 Due (Sept 14)</i>
<u>Week 5 September 21-23</u>	
<u>September 21</u> Delay <u>September 23</u> Delay Techniques, introduction to mixing in Reaper	<u>Listening 5</u> Steve Reich- <i>Come Out</i> MF Doom- “America’s Most Blunted” from <i>Madvillainy</i> Pamela Z- <i>Breathing</i> Buffy Sainte-Marie- <i>Poppies</i> <i>Listening Response 4 Due (Sept 21)</i>
<u>Week 6 September 28-30</u>	
<u>September 28</u> Reverberation, panning, and space <u>September 30</u> Reverberation Continued	<u>Listening 6</u> Kaija Saariaho- <i>NoaNoa</i> Alvin Lucier- <i>I am sitting in a room</i> Jon Nelson- <i>When Left to His Own Devices</i> <i>Listening Response 5 Due (Sept 28)</i>
<u>Week 7 October 5-7</u>	

<u>October 5</u> Dynamic Range Processing <u>October 7</u> Dynamic Range Processing Techniques	<u>Listening 7</u> Panayiotis Kokoras- <i>Rhino</i> Gilles Gobeil- <i>Le Vertige Inconnu</i> Karlheinz Stockhausen- <i>Gesang der Jünglinge</i> <i>Listening Response 6 Due (Oct 5)</i> <i>Project 2 Due (October 7)</i>
<u>Week 8 October 12-14</u>	
<u>October 12</u> Mixing Continued, creating textures and gestures <u>October 14</u> Various Effects, questions and review	<i>Listening Response 7 Due (Oct 12)</i>
<u>Week 9 October 19-21</u>	
<u>October 19</u> Hardware 2 (or EA History) <u>October 21</u> In Class Listening to Projects	<u>Listening 8</u> Halim El-Dabh – <i>The Expression of Zaar</i> Pierre Schaeffer- <i>Études aux chemins de fer</i> Wendy Carlos- <i>Funeral of Queen Mary</i> Suzanne Ciani- <i>Buchla Concerts 1975</i>
<u>Week 10 October 26-28</u>	
<u>October 26</u> <u>October 28</u>	<u>Listening 9</u> Barry Truax- <i>Riverrun</i> Joo Won Park- <i>PS Quartet</i> György Ligeti- <i>Articulation</i> Kraftwerk- “Autobahn Part 1” <i>Listening Response 8 Due (Oct 26)</i> <i>Midterm Project due (Oct 28)</i>

<u>Week 11 November 2-4</u>	
<u>November 2</u> Granulation and Granular Synthesis <u>November 4</u> Granulation Applications	<u>Listening 10</u> John Chowning <i>Stria</i> Janelle Monae “Make me Feel” and “Pynk” from <i>Dirty Computer</i> Eliane Radigue- <i>L’île re- sonante</i> <i>Listening Response 9 Due (Nov 2)</i>
<u>Week 12 November 9-11</u>	
<u>November 9</u> Principles of Electronics Orchestration and Mixing <u>November 11</u> Orchestration applications	<u>Listening 11</u> Nathalie Joachim- <i>Fanm d’Ayiti</i> Flying Lotus- “Zodiac Shit” from <i>Cosmogramma</i> Joao Pedro Oliveira- <i>Labrinto</i> <i>Listening Response 10 Due (Nov 9)</i>
<u>Week 13 November 16-18</u>	
<u>November 16</u> Individual Meetings <u>November 18</u> Individual Meetings	<u>Listening 12</u> Jens Hedman- <i>Relief</i> Elizabeth Anderson- <i>Les forges de l’invisible</i> Elizabeth Hoffman- <i>Resonants</i> <i>Listening Response 11 Due (Nov 16)</i> <i>Final Project Proposal/Precomp. Due (Nov 18)</i>
<u>Week 14 November 23 (Thanksgiving Week)</u>	
<u>November 23</u> TBD/Independent Work Day	<i>Listening Response 12 Due</i>

<u>Week 15 November 30- December 2</u>	
<u>November 30</u> Mixed Music, click tracks, and integrating performers <u>December 2</u> Electronics on Stage, performing with electronics, how to be prepared for your first EA festival	
<u>Final Exam Time</u> <u>Tuesday, December 7th 1:30-3:30</u>	Final Project Due December 6 11:59PM