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Fall 9-1-2005

MUS 466.01: Computer Music Programming

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MUS 466: Computer Music Programming
Fall 2005

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Schedule:

Class meets Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:10-11:00 am, in the Lab, room 202.

Lab time will be available Mondays-Thursdays from 6:00-10:00 pm, and Sundays from 1:00-5:00 pm, for weeks 2-14, in the Lab.

The Final Exam is scheduled for Friday, December 16 at 8:00-10:00 am, in the Lab.

Description:

MUS 466 is an advanced course in computer music programming, a project-based class that covers the composition of computer-generated music, and the theory and application of synthesis and digital signal processing, using MacCsound software.

The process of programming a piece of computer-generated sound will be discussed, code will be studied, and recordings of representative pieces will be presented, in class. Students are expected to discuss the current topic, practice using the software, and take notes on their observations, during class.

Each student will complete a series Exercises for the class. Each Exercise is meant to promote an understanding of the programming studied in class, as well as the compositional computer music techniques discussed, through creative experimentation.

Each student will also produce a Midterm Project, a written and graphical analysis of a piece for computer-generated sound, and a Final Project, a piece which should utilize many of the techniques discussed in class and experimented with in the Exercises. These projects should be planned for early, and worked on throughout the semester.

The Final Exam will be a brief programming assignment, to be completed in the scheduled two hours.

Sections of the required text, *The Csound Book* edited by Richard Boulanger, will be assigned throughout the semester, to aid understanding of the current topic of the class.

Materials:

The textbook for the class, Richard Boulanger's *The Csound Book*, can be purchased from the University of Montana Bookstore.

Each student will need CD-R(W) media, for handing in assignments and backing up files. Each student should regularly backup their work from the hard disks on the computers in the Lab and Studio. CD-R(W) media can be purchased from the Bookstore.

Grades:

The Exercises will cumulatively count as 20% of the final grade, the Midterm Project and Final Project will each count as 30%, and the Final Exam will count as 20%. The Exercises, Projects, and Final Exam will be graded on creative effort and demonstrated technical understanding.

Attendance is mandatory, and excessive absences will be reflected in your final grade. In addition, each student will be required to attend the Mountain Computer Music Festival concert on September 16th at 7:30 pm, and the Society of Composers Inc. Region VIII Conference concerts October 27th, 28th, and 29th at 7:30 pm, and October 29th at 2:00 pm.