

Scot Gresham-Lancaster
Sound Composition for Interactive application/Interactive Sound Design
ATEC4375.001.13S
Wednesday: 4:00pm 6:45pm
Location ATEC 1.103 Sound Lab

Professor Contact Information
Scot Gresham-Lancaster
scotgl@utdallas.edu
Office hours:
Weds 9am-11:30am
Thursday. 2pm-4pm
And on demand

Text: **The Digital Musician**
2nd Edition
By [Andrew Hugill](#)
Published June 20th 2012 by Routledge – 316 pages

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions
Introduction to Sound Design or Instructor's permission

Course Description

General objectives of the class:

This class will be dedicated to the topic of Sound Composition for video game, virtual environments, and interactive applications with special emphases on:

The creation of compelling and appropriate musical gestures

The simulation of changes in complex sound compositions (more specifically the “stems” of music used in time based media like games, video and film)

The representation of cultural differences and various musical styles

The creation of interactive algorithmic music

The description of musical harmony and intonation theory

Projects.

Class Methodology

The class will use:

Lectures, debates, presentations, exercises, and a final individual project. Students will perform short individual projects pertinent to each one of the specific components of a sound package for a game: effects, ambiences, voices, and music.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Knowledge:

Students will understand:

- The principles of mechanics and acoustics necessary to understand, the generation, propagation, and perception of sound.
- The various specialties of sound design as they are used in the media industry and the necessary skills and knowledge necessary to the performance of these professions.

Students will acquire a basic knowledge on music consisting at least in some historical milestones.

Design capacities:

They will understand the importance of sound design in video game and its relationship to film and video.

Students will be able to identify and describe the sonic elements necessary for the soundtrack of: movies, animation movies, games, and interactive computer based applications.

They will be able to understand the relationships between sound, music and the other dimensions of these applications.

Practical and technical skills:

Students will be able to:

- Use a digital recording equipment to record various types of sounds including: voices, ambiences, and musical instruments
- Edit, process, and manipulate digital sounds
- Assemble sonic components in a linear way
- Assemble sonic components in an interactive way

Assignments & Academic Calendar
 (Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

| | Topics | Assignments and practices |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Session 1 January 16 | Creative Identity | Write an “Elevator Pitch” regarding your value as an artist and Personal Vision Statement |
| Session 2 January 23 | Aural Awareness | Soundscape description |
| Session 3 January 30 | Exploring Sound | Create a sound structure with 6 independently created sound |
| Session 4 February 6 | Listening to Music | Amplitude – Timbre – Harmonic Structure – Melody Studies |
| Session 5 February 13 | Organizing Sound | Sine wave sound construction. White Noise sound construction |
| Session 6 February 20 | Digitizing Sound | Take a single recorded sound and turn it into a complete digital composition |
| Session 7 February 27 | Creating Music | Make a replica of a section of one of your favorite musical pieces |
| Session 8 March 6 | Instruments and Media | Create and perform a short piece on a “hyperInstrument” that you design and build |
| Session 9 March 20 | Performing and Musicianship | Realize a piece using a work of modern abstract expressionism as the score |
| Session 10 March 27 | Cultural Context | Create a sound piece that is in the style of another culture |
| Session 11 April 3 | Critical Engagement | Do a full critical analysis of a piece of digital music |
| Session 12 April 10 | Understanding Digital Music | Start work on Laptop orchestra piece |
| Session 13 April 17 | The Digital World | |
| Session 14 April 24 | Case Studies | |
| Session 15 May 1 | Final project showcase | Final project Laptop Orchestra piece |

Course & Instructor Policies

Grading Policy

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|
| Attendance, Participation to the class, and exercises | 10 Projects – so 4 points or so per project | Project 3 Sounds in Full Game level |
| 40 | 40 | 20 |

100 – 90 A

89 – 80 B

79 – 70 C

69 – 60 D

59 - 0 F

The evaluation of the assignments and of the project is based on a list of criteria that will be presented, discussed, and explained during the class

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, A to Z Guide, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

Course & Instructor Policies

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying

academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's Handbook of Operating Procedures.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.