MMEDIA 3MU3 - MUSICS, TECHNOLOGIES, AND AUDIO CULTURES (WINTER 2019)

Dr. Phil Rose - 333 Togo Salmon Hall
Tuesdays 9:30-11:30, Thursdays 9:30 – 10:30
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What effects have broadcasting, mechanical, and digital reproduction technologies had upon our experience of music? What are the differences between live performances, broadcasting, and audio objects? This course addresses these questions by examining diverse musical and sound art genres as reflected in readings, sound recordings, videos, and live performances.

Music has played a central role in our collective story, and since the dawn of humanity there have been profound changes to the ways people create and disseminate such cultural experience. Music’s evolutionary path has been intimately intertwined with technological development, and the course will investigate how this relationship has both driven and been driven by audio cultures in a dynamic interplay of social, economic, and aesthetic concerns.

REQUIRED TEXT


COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Critically interpret the impact of technology, media, and culture on the musical experience.

2. Understand how sound technologies and performance/listening practices have changed historically.
3. Discuss how historically changing media and reproduction technologies have shaped musical styles and cultural identities -- and vice versa.

4. Name, describe, and apply different modes of listening.

5. Identify, analyse, and evaluate the ways that technology, media, and culture have impacted various modes of listening.

6. Develop the ability to become more critical – more open-eared – listeners.

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

professionalism/participation: 10%

literature search (due Feb. 5): 5%

midterm (Feb. 28): 15%

introduction and thesis/annotated bibliography (due March 1): 10%

final project - term paper/podcast (due April 4): 30%

final exam (date to be announced): 30%

ASSIGNMENTS:

Attendance, participation, and professionalism 10% -- Attendance will be taken in this course, and students should come to class with readings completed and ready to discuss them, as participation is expected and required. Lateness and absences will have a negative effect upon this grade. If there are any issues that make participation in class discussion a problem for you, please bring this to the professor's attention early in the semester. Students who are absent or unable for some reason to engage the class, may choose to weigh in online, so as in part to make up for this situation.

The following rubric can guide and organize your observations for ongoing discussions of weekly reading materials:
In preparation, students should keep notes regarding the main points and strengths or weaknesses of each course item for class discussions.

Proposal/Literature Search 5% (due Feb. 5) -- Literature searches form part of the wider process of literature review when conducting research projects. This is how we determine what work has already been done on our chosen topics, and so they thus shape our research accordingly. Literature search bibliographies must use APA style and include a minimum of 12 academic books or journal articles, in addition to any popular sources like news media, blogs etc. and selections from course readings. Students should describe their proposed topic/project in a short paragraph above their bibliographic listing. Assignments are required to be submitted in hard copy.

Midterm Test 15% (Feb. 28) -- The midterm will be multiple choice and will test knowledge from lectures, readings, and discussions.

Thesis and Introduction/Annotated Bibliography 10% (due March 1) -- This assignment should include a working title for your paper or podcast, and will consist of your "introductory paragraph" or "introduction", introducing your topic, and the argument or thesis you will be presenting (max 300 words). Students will also hand in a bibliography of at least 12 relevant academic sources that provide a launch pad for their research (in addition to sources from the course curriculum and credible web resources). Students must use APA style, and annotate their bibliographies, explaining in two to five sentences how the resource will contribute to their research. Assignments are required to be submitted in hard copy.
Final Project - Term Paper or Radio Podcast 30% (due April 4) -- You will use course concepts, theories, and methodologies in the final paper or podcast, which is due by the beginning of class on April 4. Detailed information on expectations will be available on Avenue (and discussed in class).

Final Exam 30% -- The final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. It will be cumulative and consist of long answer questions that test knowledge of key concepts, questions, and issues dealt with in our readings, lectures, and in-class discussions throughout the course. We will review for the final exam on the last class: Tuesday, April 9th.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Music, Energy, and Performance


Week 2: Mimetic Soundscapes and Multimedia


Week 3: Audio Culture: Orality and Musical Notation


**Week 4: Acoustic Space, Acoustic Ecology, and Listening**


**Week 5: Aural Space and its Manipulations**


    -- literature search due --


**Week 6: From Notational to Electronic Soundscapes: the Soundwork**


Feb. 19/21 -- Midterm Recess: No classes

Week 7: Gone Electric I


-- proposals/annotated bibliography due --

Feb. 28 -- Midterm Test

Week 8: Gone Electric II


Week 9: Other Audio Contexts


Week 10: Gone Digital I


Week 11: Music, Identity, and Technological Plurality


Week 12: Gone Digital II


Apr. 4 -- film screening/final project due

Week 13: Concluding Thoughts

Apr. 9 -- Course Wrap-Up/Review/Questions

POLICIES:

Missed Work, Extensions, and Late Penalties:

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

There is a self-reporting tool available for McMaster Students, in order to report absences due to minor medical situations that last up to 3 days. This form provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work, but cannot be used during any final examination period. For further information, see http://mcmaster.ca/msaf/.

Make-up tests/exams will be allowed in case of emergency only, with proper documentation; make-ups will be different than the original and will be scheduled by the Professor. The student has one week to contact the professor to schedule a make-up, after which time a make-up will not be permitted.

Since the university uses software that can check for plagiarism, you must submit final papers directly to the professor in hard copy and electronically
through the link to 'Turn it in' on Avenue. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day due. Papers are late if they are submitted the same day after class. Late assignments, in order to document completion date, must be sent by email. Submit hard copies of late papers directly to the professor as soon as possible. Papers will not be accepted via email, and hard copies must be identical to electronic copies or risk a mark of 0%. Retain a copy of your paper for your own files.

All late assignments incur a late penalty of 10% per day late (starting immediately upon collection of papers in class); weekend days are treated separately, due to the fact that you can submit electronically. Assignments more than ten days late will not be accepted. If you know you will not be in class on an assignment due date, it is your responsibility to submit work early.

**Academic Honesty:**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: 'Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty'), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2. Improper collaboration in group work. 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Students may want to refresh their knowledge of such issues by completing the Academic Integrity Tutorial at the link below: [http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/quizzes/index.html](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity/students/quizzes/index.html).
Turnitin:

1. McMaster University approves the use of Turnitin.com for the following reasons:

   a) prevention – if students know their academic work is being checked for plagiarism, they will hopefully use proper citation methods

   b) protection of honest students and their work

   c) detection – with the type of technology in common use today, it is necessary to use a detection tool which checks academic work against the Internet

2. Guidelines for the use of Turnitin.com:

   a) papers should be submitted to Turnitin.com only with the student’s knowledge;

   b) the instructor should indicate that Turnitin.com will be used in the course outline and/or on the assignment details;

   c) the use of Turnitin.com cannot be mandatory*. If a student refuses to submit his or her work to Turnitin.com, he or she cannot be compelled to do so and should not be penalized. Instructors are advised to accept a hard copy of the assignment and grade it as per normal methods. The assignment can be subjected to a Google search or some other kind of search engine if the instructor wishes.

* Some students object to the use of Turnitin.com because of ownership issues. All work submitted to Turnitin.com becomes part of their database and is used to check authenticity of other student’s assignments. Some students object to their work being put in the database and others object to their work being used by Turnitin.com

Student Info regarding Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.
Course Modification: The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Faculty email policy: It is the policy of the Communication Studies and Multimedia Department that all email communication between students and instructors must originate from their official McMaster University email accounts. This policy protects the confidentiality and sensitivity of information and confirms the identities of both the student and instructor.

Effective time management is critical for university students. Adhering to the schedule for assignments supports the development of this skill. In this regard, therefore, consider the following - always:

“What information consumes is rather obvious: it consumes the attention of its recipients. Hence a wealth of information creates a poverty of attention, and a need to allocate that attention efficiently among the overabundance of information sources that might consume it” (Herbert A. Simon).