University of South Carolina
School of Music

BAIN MUSC 336
Introduction to Computer Music

SYLLABUS

Instructor
Dr. Reginald Bain, Professor
Composition and Theory

Contact Information
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Office: Music Building, R227
Office Hours: MWF 1:00-2:00 pm, and by appointment

Course Information
Term: Fall 2021
Format: MW 12:00 - 12:50 pm; B3WEB[1]
Location: Music Building, R006
Lab: Computer Music Studio B, R011
Blackboard Page: https://blackboard.sc.edu
Website: https://reginaldbain.com

COURSE MODULES

1. Course Introduction

2. Sound Editing &
   Transformation

3. Interactive Music
   Programming

4. Synthesis

5. Sequencing

6. Special Topics

Description
An introduction to the theory and practice of computer music for digital musicians.

Prerequisites
General knowledge of personal computers (Mac OS or Windows) and an interest in electronic music.

Textbook (Open Access)
Burk, Phil, Larry Polansky, Douglas Repetto, Mary Roberts and Dan Rockmore. 2011.
    Music and Computers: A Theoretical and Historical Approach, Archival Version.
    Available online at: <http://musicandcomputersbook.com>.

Digital Course Materials
All of the materials for this course are digital. Digital materials will be made available via the course Blackboard page and website.

Technical Requirements
A computer, Web access, and a university-provided Blackboard account are required to access the digital course materials and submit work in Blackboard. The creative projects have been designed so they may be completed in a typical *home studio*. The following minimum equipment setup is required: (1) a desktop or laptop computer running a recent version of MacOS or Windows; (2) headphones or speakers. If you do not have an appropriate computer, the creative projects may be executed in Computer Music Studio B (Mac OS). If you run into any technical difficulties, please let me know as soon as possible via e-mail so that I may assist you.

Instructional Methods
This course will be taught using multiple instructional methods including lecture, flipping, student-centered learning, group discussion, and guided discovery-learning activities with associated critical discussion.

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[1] Blended/Hybrid Up to 49% web. Course that is taught both face-to-face and online with 49% or less of the course offered online. Course meets in-person on Monday/Wednesday and activities/assignments are completed asynchronously online by students in lieu of a Friday meeting.

I am always happy to help you. Please don't hesitate to ask for help. The earlier you ask for assistance the better.

Course Goals and Objectives
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Edit and transform digital audio
- Program a computer to generate interactive music and sound
- Synthesize, sequence, and mix digital music
- Identify the acoustic and psychoacoustic principles involved in digital audio and sound synthesis
- Create original or derivative audio, programming, and sequencing projects
- Navigate the online literature for electronic music, computer music, and related disciplines
- Analyze electronic/computer music and place it within an appropriate historical context

Course Requirements
Daily use of the course Blackboard page and website to access digital course materials. Weekly reading and *Listening Journal* activities. There will be three Blackboard exams and three creative projects (with associated supporting documentation and required file submissions). Each creative project is accompanied by a set of homework tutorials. Submission dates/times are available in the *Reading & Assessment Schedule* as well as in Blackboard.

Electronic Submission of Work
All work for the course will be submitted electronically (via Blackboard). Detailed submission guidelines and rubrics are provided for each creative project. Late work cannot be accepted – except in the case of a documented *excused absence*. Work that is not submitted is averaged into the student's homework grade using a score of zero.

University Policies and Student Services
I will follow the university's **attendance policy**.[2] Information about the university's **academic integrity** policy, **Student Disability Resource Center** (SDRC), and **other student services** is available on the course website (see *Links for Students*). If you are registered with the SDRC, please be sure I receive a copy of your *accommodation letter* during the first week of class so I may work with you (and with SDRC as necessary) to make sure your accommodations are met. The SDRC is located in Close-Hipp, Suite 102. You may reach the SDRC via e-mail sadrc@mailbox.sc.edu, or phone 777-6142.[3]

Classroom Policies
I am committed to making each day we meet a safe, active, focused, positive, and distraction-free learning environment for everyone in the class. I expect all students to follow the university guidelines for classroom *safety* and *acceptable conduct*, as well as the *classroom etiquette* guidelines below:
- For current **classroom safety guidelines**, visit the: *COVID-19 Faculty Guidance for the Classroom Page*: <https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/academicpriorities/keepteaching/guidance/index.php>.
- For **current campus safety guidelines**, visit the *Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Landing Page*: <https://sc.edu/safety/coronavirus/>.
- Please do not enter the classroom while music is playing. You may enter the classroom (as quietly as possible) when the when the music stops playing.
- Cell phones should be put in silent mode before the class begins.
- You are encouraged to bring your laptop to class. Please be sensitive to the fact that the use of electronic devices for non-class activities is a significant distraction to others.

Grading Scale & Distribution

100-90 **A**	89-85 **B+**	84-80 **B**	79-75 **C+**	74-70 **C**	69-65 **D+**	64-60 **D**	59-0 **F**

10% –   Homework (10%)
         Technology Survey & *Listening Journal* (Midterm & final submissions: 5% ea.)
45% –   Three Creative Projects (15% ea.)
45% –   Three Exams (15% ea.)

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[2] Attendance policy: https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/undergraduate/policies-regulations/undergraduate-academic-regulations/
[3] SDRC website: <https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/student_disability_resource_center/index.php>.