

FTS-100 349: It's Just Noise/Music

FTS-100-349

First Term Seminar
It's Just Noise/Music

Overview

This seminar introduces students to critical thinking and a discussion of values, and develops oral and written communication skills, through an investigation of electroacoustic which includes acousmatic, computer music, algorithmic composition, tape music, glitch, circuit bending, electronic, musique concrete, noise, laptop performance, DJ culture, and organized sound. This course will provide a historical survey of electroacoustic and discuss some of the most salient questions associated with it, from both a compositional and musicological point of view. Topics up for discussion include: What is music? What is electronic music? Possible definitions of musical sound and musical instruments; musique concrete and other pioneering ideas: what makes them innovative and ahead of their time; analysis of tape music and computer music in the United States versus that in the world; analysis of electroacoustic compositions; how to convey ideas through sound; sampling and intellectual property; algorithmic and computer-aided composition: structures and forms; live versus studio compositions.

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 4:00pm - 5:00pm; Saturday 6:00pm - 7:00pm; Sunday 6:00pm - 7:00pm (specially reserved for FTS-100 students only). Visitors are welcome whenever my office door is opened, even outside scheduled office hours. If you would like to meet with me, please email me to schedule an appointment.

Weekly Schedule:

Louis Yu's Schedule (Fall 2016)							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9.00am - 9.50am	MCS-177-001 Computer Science I OHS329		MCS-177-001 Computer Science I OHS329		MCS-177-001 Computer Science I OHS329		
10.00am - 10.20am							
10.30am - 11.20am	FTS-100-349 Noise/Music OHS320		FTS-100-349 Noise/Music OHS320		FTS-100-349 Noise/Music OHS320		
11.30am - 12.20pm							
12.30pm - 01.20pm	MCS-377-001 Networking OHS219	MCS-377-001 Networking OHS219		MCS-377-001 Networking OHS219	MCS-377-001 Networking OHS219		
01.30pm - 03.00pm							
03.00pm - 04.00pm							
04.00pm - 05.00pm	Office Hour OHS303		Office Hour OHS303				
05.00pm - 06.00pm							
06.00pm - 07.00pm						Office Hour OHS303	Office Hour FTS-100 only OHS303

Individual Advising

- During the semester we will use class time to give you feedback on projects and homework, and to give you help on registration. However, those time are far less than enough; you will still need to come see me for individual advising on a regular basis.
- Your best option is to come see me during my Sunday office hour (scheduled specially for you).
- You can also come see me during my other office or arrange a time to meet with me.
- For each successful individual advising session you had with me, you will receive a check. You will need 4 checks by the end of the semester. The grade for individual advising is worth 8% of your final grade.
- Sometimes I will ask you to come see me at a particular time and date. If you miss an arranged individual advising session, you will receive a 1% deduction on your final grade.
- I reserve the right to lower your individual advising grade if I sense that you have saved all your individual advising sessions until late in the semester and are trying to get rid of them by coming to see me frequently during a short period of time.

Class Attendance

- 8% of your final grade. We will record it at the start of each class.
- I reserve the right to lower your grade even further if I feel that you're missing or showing up late to consecutive lectures.
- If you miss a class, you're still responsible for what is covered.
- If work is due that date, you still need to hand it in (if presentation is due that date and you had not make a arrangement with me, you receive zero for that presentation).
- If you are sick, I require that you email me ASAP with a doctor's note.

Participation

- 8% of your final grade.
- You are encouraged to ask questions, give opinions, start and contribute to discussions.
- If I feel that you have made a great contribution, you will receive a check for participation.
- If you receive 8 checks by the end of the semester, you will receive the full participation grade. For each check missing you will receive a 1% deduction on your final grade.
- However, you are not limited to just 8 checks at the end of the semester. For each extra check, you will receive 0.5% bonus point on your final grade.
- I reserve the right to lower your participation grade if I feel that you have developed a pattern of being disruptive and disrespectful in class.

Advising Homework

- Each week we will cover materials from the FTS advising curriculum.
- Every Monday I will give a lecture on an advising topic.
- The Friday before that lecture I will give out an advising homework consist of several tasks, each worth points.
- I will check the completion of your homework at the start of each lecture on Monday.
- At the end of the semester, the total points you have earned for completing the tasks will be divided by the total points given to calculate your advising homework grade. The advising homework grade is worth 8% of your final grade.
- If you miss an advising homework, there will not be any make-up. You will receive zero for the corresponding tasks.

Date	Reading	Topic	Start Working On	Writings Due
9/7	-	- Introduction - Going over the syllabus	-	-
9/9	-	- Discussion: music and noise music - Introducing the first advising homework	Advising homework # 1	-
9/12	-	- Introducing the first short writing and presentation assignment (favorite albums (1))	The first short written and presentation assignment (favorite albums (1))	-
9/14	-	- Advising: semester goal setting	-	Advising homework # 1
9/16	-	- Short presentation on favorite albums (1) , students 1 - 4	-	-

Projects

- 4 projects, written and/or presentation.
 - Project 1: 10%
 - Project 2: 15%
 - Project 3: 15%
- Project 4 (final project): 28%
- If you made a submission for your written work late, you will receive 1% deduction on your final grade per day late.
- If you are sick, email me with doctor's note.
- If you missed a presentation (oral or formal), you will receive zero
- You will need to spend extra time outside of the class.

Honor

- Any substantive contribution to your project by another person or direct quotations from a website, an article or a publication should be properly acknowledged in writing (by citing the source). Failure to do so is plagiarism and will necessitate disciplinary action.
- In other words, no direct copying of any phrases, sentences from other sources without citation
- You will receive zero on that component if I find out any part of that work is copied without citation. Further disciplinary action can be applied (evaluated on a case-by-case basis.)
- Don't test me, I am a computer scientist.

Grading

- Project 1: 10%
- Project 2: 15%
- Project 3: 15%
- Project 4: 28%
- Class attendance: 8%
- Class participation: 8%
- Advising homework: 8%
- Individual advising: 8%

Your course letter grade will be recorded as follows:

A: 94 - 100 **B+:** 87 - 89 **C+:** 77 - 79 **D+:** 67 - 69 **F:** 0-59
A-: 90 - 93 **B:** 83 - 86 **C:** 73 - 76 **D:** 63 - 66
B-: 80 - 82 **C-:** 70 - 72 **D-:** 60 - 62

This semester we are using Moodle (<http://moodle.gac.edu/>) to keep track of your scores.

A Little Exercise

- I'll play you 5 songs.
- Write down your thought as you listen to each song. How does each song makes you feel?
- What messages is each song trying to convey?
 - Good time, fun
 - Partying
- Write down the word that comes into your head as you listen to each song.
 - Mountain
 - Sky
 - Slow
- Your thought could be immediate or not:
 - Happy/sad
 - Excited
 - "It sounds like a bunch of cats being tortured"

A Little Exercise

- Organize your post-it notes into 5 piles.
- Put each post-it note on a section of the board when you are done.
- Let's talk about them.
- What can we draw from this listening experience?
- What am I trying to say? What's my point?

Questions

- What can you appreciate when you listen to music?
- Do you always have to understand music? Does the message always have to be crystal clear to you?

Questions

- Does music HAVE to make you feel good?
 - Is “makes me happy”, “got a good beat” automatically a good thing in music.
 - Is “I don't get it”, “It angers me”, “It confuses me” automatically a bad thing in music?
 - To answer that, we need a definition
- What is Music then?
- What do you want from music? What can music do for you?

Homework

- Listen to each song again, the track list is available on the course web page
- <http://homepages.gac.edu/~lyu/teaching/fts100-f16/9-7-2016.html>
- For each song, write your impression in point form on the posted-note (so at the end you will have 5 posted notes).
- For each song, try to justify your answer even further on a piece of paper (i.e., write an elaboration on the corresponding post-it note).
- Try to ask questions and think about things thoroughly as you write your impression. I will discuss them with you on Friday.