School of Humanities Creative Industries SocialSci

MUSI1731: Sound, Music and Texture
Newcastle City Precinct
Semester 2 - 2023

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description

This course develops an understanding of musical and performing arts vocabularies, representation, and communication, focusing on texture and timbre and their various developments in historical and cultural contexts. Students will apply these tools analytically and creatively towards works in various genres and eras. The course teaches students to be active and analytical listeners of sound events, textures, and musical gestures, using examples from diverse cultures, genres, historical periods and styles including innovations in music and performance technology.

Requisites

This course has similarities to MUSI1631. If you have successfully completed MUSI1631 you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Newcastle City Precinct
Field Study
Face to Face Off Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 2 Weeks starting Week 6
Weeks 6-7
Lecture
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 11 Weeks starting Week 1
Weeks 1-5 and Weeks 8-13
Tutorial
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for 11 Weeks starting Week 1
Weeks 1-5 and Weeks 8-13

Unit Weighting

10

Workload

Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Newcastle City Precinct** A/Pr Jon Drummond Jon.Drummond@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: By appointment
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	**School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences** NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content	Topics will include: sounds in the environment, sound and meaning, timbral organisation and analysis, digital analysis methods, uses of analogue and digital technologies for the creation of a sound event, sound envelopes, aesthetics of sound-making across cultures, performance contexts, experimental approaches to music, sound and performance.
Course Learning Outcomes	**On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:** 1. Identify and explain the use of timbre and texture in a variety of musical styles and eras; 2. Recognise, create and analyse significant sonic structures with respect to timbre and texture; 3. Demonstrate the ability to communicate about music and performing arts; 4. Apply technology in the analysis of music and sound events.
Course Materials	**Multi-Media Resource:** - See Canvas for required and recommended viewing and listening. **Required Reading:** - See Canvas for required and recommended reading. No textbook purchase required.

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	Course Intro, Fundamentals of sound and techniques for listening and analysis	group analysis of various genres using SHMRF framework	
2	24 Jul	Early Electronic Music and Art Movements Discuss Assessment 1 criteria.	Researching and writing about music and performing arts. Library resources. Group listening/viewing and discussion of weekly selection.	
3	31 Jul	Fluxus, Minimalism, sound art, drone and ambient	Technology for analyzing music (mobile apps, EQ and spectrograms in Audacity and Logic). Group listening/viewing and discussion of weekly selection.	
4	7 Aug	Appropriation/Samples/Mash ups/Covers.	Microphones and field recorders workshop in preparation for fieldwork and assessment 2	ASSESSMENT 1
5	14 Aug	Soundscape, acoustic ecology, and sound walks. Discuss Assessment 2 criteria.	Editing and processing field recordings in preparation for assessment 2	
6	21 Aug	Fieldwork (Fieldwork in lieu of lecture: meet at designated location)	NO TUTORIAL: attend Fieldwork meeting during lecture hour	
7	28 Aug	Fieldwork (Fieldwork in lieu of lecture: meet at designated location)	NO TUTORIAL: attend Fieldwork meeting during lecture hour	
8	4 Sep	Sound design – commercial music and sound for visual media	assessment 2 presentations	ASSESSMENT 2
9	11 Sep	Podcasts, radio plays, storytelling through sound. Discuss Assessment 3 criteria.	(continue) assessment 2 presentations. Analyzing podcasts: script and sound components	
10	18 Sep	Musicals and opera	Podcast production techniques in preparation for assessment 3	
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	Guest Lecture: Australian Music	Podcast production techniques in preparation for assessment 3	
12	16 Oct	Contemporary Performance Art, Installations	Group listening/viewing and discussion of weekly selection. Project WIP feedback session	
13	23 Oct	Contemporary Experimental: DIY, tabletop ecology, broken media, glitch, and noise	Project WIP feedback session	ASSESSMENT 3
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Analyse and discuss a Contemporary Work of Music or Sound Design - 30%	Week 5	Individual	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Field Recordings Project - 30%	Week 8	Group	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Audio Sound Design Podcast - 40%	Week 13	Individual	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

Late Submissions   The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Analyse and discuss a Contemporary Work of Music or Sound Design - 30%

Assessment Type   Report
Purpose   This task assesses individual listening ability, critical discernment, and the ability to communicate pertinent information about an artist and work.
Description   Students will analyse and discuss a contemporary work (post-1950) of music, sound art, or performance art. The paper will include a structural analysis, biographical information on the composer and/or performers and pertinent influences, and commentary on the artist's or work's placement in cultural, social, political, or philosophical contexts. The analysis should include a discussion of the sonic or visual structures, use of timbre, texture, or language as applicable, use of production and design techniques, and use of notable technology where appropriate. Include diagrams and annotations of how the work is structured to support the discussion. Links to recordings or performances must be included. 1000 words and reference list.
Weighting   30%
Length   1000 words and reference list.
Due Date   Week 5
Submission Method   Online
Assessment Criteria   See Canvas for criteria and rubric.
Return Method   Not Returned
Feedback Provided   Online - .

Assessment 2 - Field Recordings Project - 30%

Assessment Type   Portfolio
Purpose   This task assesses the ability to discern and record environmental sounds and thoughtfully compose those recordings into a creative sound work.
Description   Students will create a 3-5 minute soundscape composition based on original environmental field recordings. The project should integrate theoretical, creative, technical, and cultural elements into practical work with an appropriate level of innovation and creative engagement with skills and methods presented in class. Students are also required to present a clear and concise rationale for the chosen forms, methods, media and materials in a 250-word report. Students are encouraged to make carefully considered choices regarding presentation context and audience experience and demonstrate technical proficiency. Students may work in groups to collect field recordings. However, each student will submit a unique composition.

In-class presentation: Group listening and peer feedback session of soundscape

compositions. Provide brief contexts of your work and a visual listening guide (such as analysis diagrams, event lists, or scores).

Attendance and contribution to class discussion is required.

Weighting	30%
Length	3-5 minutes with 250-word report
Due Date	Week 8
Submission Method	In Class Online In-class presentation required. See description and Canvas for details.
Assessment Criteria	See Canvas for criteria and rubric.
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online - .

Assessment 3 - Audio Sound Design Podcast - 40%

Assessment Type	Project
Purpose	This task assesses the ability to produce, analyze, and present a creative work.
Description	The final project is a 3-5 minute audio podcast created in response to the ideas, questions, and works presented in the course. It is an audio piece built around the format of the creative radio podcast form. It should include spoken word utilizing an original script, sound effects, and musical selections. Using the examples presented as template ideas for the piece, students construct a radio/podcast essay piece that explores one aspect of the ideas encountered in the subject that interests them. Content may be derived from course lectures or readings, an examination of a technique, or an exploration of a genre, movement, or artist. The piece should present this idea in short audio form that creatively communicates what the essay is exploring or attempting to express. Include a reference list.
Weighting	40%
Length	3-5 minutes
Due Date	Week 13
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	See Canvas for criteria and rubric.
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online - . Online, Project WIP feedback given during Week 12 and 13 tutorials.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Attendance	*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s). Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:
	- Field Study (Method of recording: Student must report to tutor for manual check-in.)
	- Tutorial (Method of recording: myUni app)
	Student must alert the tutor if unable to self-check in to tutorials.
Communication Methods	Communication methods used in this course include:
	- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
	- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
	- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.
Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35.
Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
	1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
	2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
	3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
	4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

Other Information	**To adhere to the WH&S policy for the School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences (HCISS), and to access resources and specialist facilities, inductions are required as part of coursework and research activities.**
	This course requires you to complete the General Induction BY WEEK 1 of SEMESTER **https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/knowledge-base/general-induction/**
	How to Guide **https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/knowledge-base/booking-system-access/**
	Induction Catalogue **https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/inductions/**
	The general induction must be completed by all staff and students within the School of Creative Industries. This induction covers WHS, General information, Technical support and University operations. This general induction (Level 0) is Mandatory and is required to access general facilities and equipment.
	By completing the general induction (level 0) you are given access to: • **General facilities within the city precinct (includes after hours access)** • **Access to book facilities and equipment (Booking point)**