

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
Fine Arts Department
Course Outline

Electroacoustic Ensemble
DD1421/2421 A23 3(0-0-2) 2004-2005
This course is not U.T.

Instructor: Geoffrey Whittall
Office: L-119
Phone: 539-2823
E-mail: gwhittall@gprc.ab.ca
Website: www.fad.gprc.ab.ca/~Geoff/ (← you must type exactly this!)

Prerequisite: As a member of the IDD Music program, you should have either grade 2 music theory, MU 1000, or have passed the music theory placement exam, to have a real chance of succeeding in this course.

Rehearsal Times: Tuesday 4:00-5:50 PM, Room L101, plus extra rehearsals as necessary

Course Objective: The Electroacoustic Ensemble provides a performance and production opportunity for students in the IDD program, along with other students who are interested in performing a wide variety of non-traditional music. This year's performance may consist of rock, country, blues, jazz, experimental vocal ensemble, and a variety of other genres. Expect that you will perform, in some capacity or other, in a number of pieces during the performances in the second week of March, and in any other performances that we plan. All students will be involved as performers, technicians, and coordinators. Students will hone their writing skills through the realization of original compositions in an ensemble situation. Goals will include creating diverse types of music and preparing music for performance. Improvisation will be practiced, and expected in performance. To these ends, we will spend time discussing musical form, arranging and writing ideas, and we will discuss whatever music theory we find necessary to achieve an interesting and rewarding performance in March.

Evaluation: Evaluation in this course is 100% based upon participation, contribution, and performance in both class/rehearsal and concert. This will take into account preparation, achievement, attendance, efforts at composition and arranging, punctuality, ability to follow instructions, and overall performance and contribution. You will create and offer a minimum of three works to the ensemble; only one of them may be a solo work. There is no negotiation on the number or delivery of your three pieces; each must be submitted both as a lead sheet and on CD.

Attendance: Being late or absent has a cost. It is expected that students will attend all rehearsals due to the fact that evaluation is ongoing. The presence of all performers is essential if the ensemble is to achieve a high standard of performance and work as a team. If a student cannot attend a rehearsal due to medical reasons, it is considered common (and essential) courtesy that the student should give advance notice of being absent. If this is not possible, as may be the case in extreme circumstances, the student is to see the instructor upon returning to GPRC. If a student misses a class, not only do they impact

their own education, but they interfere with the education of every other student with whom they are working. Much of our time is spent in the development of musical pieces to perform, and working on ensemble skills; these are elements which are improved only by collective activity, and for which every member of the group depends upon every other member. If you miss four classes, you will be told to leave the course.

Required materials: manuscript paper, notepaper, pencil, eraser, blank CDs. You must bring all but the blank CDs to every class. Expect to use a blank CD to submit a single copy of each of your works to the class.

Concerts: Our main concerts are booked in the College Theatre from March 15-19. Expect to give a number of performances. We have the unique opportunity to make these performances multi-media in nature. In keeping with the multi-disciplinary nature of the Fine Arts Department, we can call upon dancers, videographers, actors, and other artists to assist us as we prepare to take our music before the public. Students will develop and produce the show. This includes aspects such as publicity, advertising, setting ticket prices, moving gear, setting up the stage and doing lighting, recording the performance, plotting the show, and doing all the essential planning and execution to pull off a high-level production.

Essential equipment should always be brought to rehearsals. If you need a guitar for one of your pieces, make sure you bring a guitar to rehearsal. Pencils and erasers are essential. Bring them!! You should never have to borrow a pencil to write or mark your own part, or scribble down an idea.

Ultimately, the most important contribution that you can make to the group is to contribute to the exchange of ideas, exhibit good musicianship, and play your best.

Timelines: By the following dates, I expect that students will have negotiated and provided the following information:

Concert Theme: October 12, 2004

First musical contribution: November 9, 2004

Second musical contribution: December 7, 2004

Third musical contribution: January 4, 2005

Performance Blocked out by February 1, 2005

(First Concert Performance: March 17, 2005)