

AVT 374.001/474.001 | Spring 2014

Sound Art I and II | **Class Portfolio Contract**

(Please read carefully; each student's requirements are slightly different.)

As per our "discussion" on Tuesday, February 11, this is how students are being asked to build their portfolio for the semester:

(1) **Production Practica.** These are guided assignments of a practical nature. In most cases students will be given sound files and asked to perform some editing and processing tasks preliminary to the applied use of those sounds. **Everyone will do at least one of these. (Your recently completed 2 animals + 1 sun sound montage is an example of this kind of exercise.)**

(2) **Multi-track Composition.** Tracks **must be** assembled in and the final product exported from **Audacity**, although the tracks themselves may come from any source other than pre-recorded CDs or music files. Final compositions should be no less than 8 minutes in duration (nor should they be much longer than this without cause). This should be an elegant, comprehensive and artistically rich demonstration of your ability to expressively manipulate the formal properties of sound within a DAW. Be prepared to explain what you have done as a part of your final exam. **Everyone will do one of these.**

(3) **Instrument Construction (digital).** Based on interest and relevant experience, three students (Stefan Greene, Alex Papas, and Aaron Shlesinger) have been asked to build a sound-generating interface built using MAX-MSP/Jitter. **Other students** who have an interest in taking on a project using this software may do so after the instructor's introduction to MAX/MSP and may swap this project for one of their other options with instructor approval. Interfaces that allow user-generated sound need not be particularly sophisticated. These instruments will be finished prior to, and demonstrated during, **Noise Awareness Week (4/28 - 5/2).**

(4) **Installation (non-site specific).** Every student (with the exception of the three students doing digital instruments) will build a small sound-generating sculpture. These will all share some common features of material and engineering to be disclosed at a later date. These small sculptures will be installed throughout the building during **Noise Awareness Week (4/28 - 5/2).** Instructor will help students identify and access appropriate locations.

(7) **Open (duo).** These are projects in which each of two students contributes equally to conceptualization and execution. Students participating in the same collaborative project need not necessarily receive the same grade. **Every student will be a member of at least one two-person team. We have eleven registered students. To solve this dilemma, the instructor will arrange for one student to be a member of two teams.**

(8) **Noise Awareness Day.** April 30, 2014 is tentatively the date for our Noise-a-Thon - a concert featuring performance-based sound art and experimental music. **The entire week will be dedicated to noise awareness and hearing health. This is our annual showcase of "Sound Art at Mason". All students are expected to participate (as performers and/or organizers) in Noise Awareness Week activities.**

NAD 2014 Committees

- 1) **Publicity Committee (Lesly Gordon, Ioannis Hadjikyriakou):** design and dissemination of any posters or other print materials. Also, the LCD display on Braddock Rd and Campus Cable.
- 2) **Press Committee (Wynne Bowman):** writes a press release and uses that release as a tool to get articles written in campus, local, and regional newspapers.

- 3) **Stage Manager (Caryn Wesselman):** on day of event, addresses artists' parking and other needs and maintains the continuity of the performances throughout the evening.
- 4) **Engineer (Aaron Shlesinger):** technical needs of the performance
- 5) **Facilities Logistics (Stefan Green, Kyle Van Dyke):** on day of event, room must be set-up (chairs, lighting, sound system, vending and food areas); the room must be returned to the condition in which it was found.
- 6) **Program, non-performance (Micayla Charles, Chloe Sanders):** activities and learning opportunities supporting hearing health and audio awareness.
- 7) **Web Presence (Alex Papas):** event web site design and archiving of the week's event for future promotional use.
- 8) **Instructor (Professor Stanley):** will curate the bathrooms. Secure room, funding, and any supporting equipment or personnel.