MUS 300: Music, Technology, and Digital Culture (D.E.C. Category H)
Stony Brook University - Spring 2013
Staller Center, Room 0113 (the “Choral Room”), 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM, Tuesdays & Thursdays

INSTRUCTORS:
Phil Salathé (pronounced: SAHL-uh-TAY)  philip.salathe@stonybrook.edu
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Office Hours:
Phil - Staller Center, Room 1311 – Tue 1:00 – 3:00 PM or by appointment
Branic – Staller Center, Room 1349 – Thu 1:00 – 3:00 PM or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Additional readings from other texts will be electronically distributed and assigned, including materials taken from books, articles, websites, etc. We will also distribute audio and video materials for listening/viewing.

DESCRIPTION:
Our course catalog describes MUS 300 as the “study of the interactions between music, technology, and culture in popular and concert music since World War I. Issues of production, distribution, and reception, involving such topics as the impact of radio on composition in the 1920s and 1930s, early synthesizers, and the rise of electronic music, digital sampling and DJs, the MP3 phenomenon, cross-cultural borrowings, gender and technology, the internet, interactivity, and new models of consumption [will be discussed].”

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students successfully completing this course will:
– develop the ability to listen critically and analytically to a piece of music or sound source, and learn to articulate what they hear in a precise, concrete, and thoughtful way;
– develop the technical vocabulary necessary to quantify the above observations, and connect them to their appropriate technological, cultural, political, and/or historical context;
– demonstrate a clear understanding of the history, development, and of music technology and audio recording technology, dating from the earliest known recordings to the present day;
– engage substantively with specific examples drawn from the literature and from various cultures, e.g. Jamaican dub music or video game music;
– put all of the above skills into practice by researching and writing a scholarly paper on a relevant topic.

GRADING:
• Attendance/Participation/Classwork – 25%  • Assignments – 25%
• Quizzes – 25%  • Term Paper – 25%

Attendance is MANDATORY. Remember, 99% of life is showing up! You are expected to attend every class, and arrive on time. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each and every class. Three absences will result in a reduction of 5 points in your final grade; every three absences beyond that will reduce your final grade by an additional 10 points (one letter grade). Anyone arriving after the day's lecture/discussion has begun will be considered late. Two late arrivals or early departures will equal one absence.

Though this is a large class, discussion is still a very important component of our work together. Your participation grade will reflect your contributions to class discussions, your participation in classroom activities, and your overall level of engagement. This doesn't mean you need to say a lot, or speak in every single class – quality counts for more than quantity – but it's important to engage in some way throughout the course. This classroom is meant to be a welcoming space for all participants, so please contribute!

Quizzes will be given in-class, no more than once per week, and will cover the assigned reading and class lectures and discussion. These will be graded on a standard 100-point scale. We may assign one or more take-home quizzes. There will be no final exam in this class.
**Assignments** will typically be relatively short, written responses to the week's assigned reading/listening, but may include other types of assignments. All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard in Microsoft Word (.doc) format. In the event of a Blackboard outage or other technical difficulties, we will accept paper copies or email submissions, but submitting via Blackboard is otherwise mandatory.

Assignments are graded based on a 5-point scale, and are must be submitted before 11:30 AM on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized 1 point if you submit them within 48 hours of the due date, 2 points if you get them in within a week, and won't be accepted at all if they're more than a week late. All assignments must be well-written, with correct spelling and grammar, and must address the assigned questions. Unacceptable assignments will be returned for revision.

Finally, your **term paper** will be due on April 22, 2014, and will count for 10% of your final grade. The paper will be between 6-10 pages long (not counting title page or bibliography), in 12-point double-spaced Times New Roman font with standard margins. This is not to be a “rough draft” or “work in progress” -- we expect a finished paper on April 22!

We will then return your paper with comments, feedback, and suggestions by Friday, May 2, 2014, using Microsoft Word comments to annotate your document. You will have two weeks to make any necessary changes or corrections to your paper, and will submit the revised version no later than **5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 16, 2014.** This revised version will account for 15% of your final grade.

(Note: a paper topic proposal will be due on March 27, and will be graded as an assignment. Details TBA.)

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

When you turn in an assignment, a quiz, or a paper, and you use someone else's words or ideas, you must give credit where credit is due. It doesn't matter whether it's an article, a book, a website, or the back of a cereal box: if you didn't come up with it yourself, you must provide a citation. Paraphrasing is not good enough!

Every quotation and every borrowed idea you use must be properly attributed with a footnote or parenthetical citation, using an appropriate academic citation format (preferably MLA style). Your term paper should also include a full bibliography at the end, listing detailed publication information for every source you consult. If you have any questions about this, please don't hesitate to see one of us before submitting your assignment. If you have the slightest doubt, always cite.

All violations of these policies, and any other form of academic dishonesty, will immediately be reported to the Academic Judiciary Board. And we will check, so please don't be tempted to bend the rules!

**CLASSROOM POLICIES:**

If you need to miss class for a valid reason (illness, University-sanctioned athletic event, family emergency), you must let us know before class time, and you're still expected to hand in any assignments due on that day. We will normally only excuse one absence per student, and we reserve the right to ask for verification. Remember that “presenting fabricated excuses for missed assignments or tests” is, according to official University policy, considered a form of academic dishonesty.

More generally, if you're having difficulties of any sort – personal, medical, or academic – that will affect your work in this class, it's essential that you inform us right away. If you let us know beforehand, we can probably figure out a way to make things work. If you only tell us after you've already missed a bunch of classes and assignments, however, then it's likely to be a different story.

Cell phones and other portable devices (PDAs, Blackberries, iThings) should be turned off during class. We will consider an exception if you have a reasonable need, e.g. if you're a volunteer firefighter, have a sick or very young child at home, etc., but those devices must still be turned off during any exams.

**Please note the following statements for your information:**

**DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS) STATEMENT**

If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Support Services (631) 632-6748 or http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dss/. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. Students who require assistance during emergency evacuation are encouraged to discuss their needs with their professors and Disability Support Services. For procedures and information go to the following website: http://www.stonybrook.edu/ehs/fire/disabilities.asp

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT**

Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is always wrong. Faculty are required to report any suspected instance of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at http://www.stonybrook.edu/uaa/academicjudiciary/

**CRITICAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT**

Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report the Office of Judicial Affairs any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, and/or inhibits students' ability to learn.