SYLLABUS

LAS 103X 5: Music in Virtual Reality
Thursdays 4:10 pm Music Hall 053
Instructor: Dr. Christopher Hopkins hopkinsc@iastate.edu

Description
A course introducing students to research in virtual reality applications related to sound design and music. The Hopkins/Bryden VE-SoundSynth project housed in VRAC on the ISU campus will be used as an exemplar. Other such projects will be investigated via web resources. Background research will be assigned to give students an overview of work in the field.

The course will be organized in two phases. Phase One will consist of lectures and demonstrations of projects from two disciplines: virtual reality and electroacoustic music. The second phase will consist of directed research taken up by teams formed from the class, which will be presented in panel presentations and discussion. The instructor will provide the guidelines for this research and the schedule for presentation.

Students will keep a journal detailing their experience in class, focused on evaluation and commentary on the subjects introduced in lectures and discussion. The journal also will include evaluation and commentary on the research sources introduced in Phase 2. This portion of the journal will be individual writing, even though the research itself will be presented by a team in a panel discussion. In order to coordinate this journal WWW resources used for the class, the journal itself should be an electronic document capable of links to web sites. Assistance will be provided.

The final exam will consist of a term paper, approximately ten pages. Students will submit both this term paper and their journal for a final grade.

Schedule
Introduction/Demonstration of VE-Sound Synth

Phase I: Background (approx. six weeks)
1. Electronic/Computer Music Synthesis
2. Experimental Digital Interfaces for Musical Performance (non-haptic)
3. Virtual Reality (virtual environments) and Haptics

Phase II: Students Research (approx. six weeks)
4. Research Sources
5. Panel Presentations

Summary and Term Papers

Evaluation and Grading

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<td>Participation and Panel Discussion</td>
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<td>Journal</td>
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