

Music 5

Lecture 8

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Lecture Outline

1. Announcements
2. General Information
3. Module 9: New Music (Computational Creativity)
4. Studio Work Assignment
5. Final Project

Announcements

- The following **module items** are DUE before Sunday, [May 31](#) at 11:59 pm:
 - Module 9 Quiz: AI Part 3 Types of Creativity
 - Module 9 Quiz: AI Part 4 Neural Networks
 - Module 9 Studio Work Assignment
- The deadline to turn in **late assignments and assignment resubmissions** is Friday, [June 5](#) at 11:59 pm
- **The final project** is DUE before Tuesday, [June 9](#) at 11:59 pm
- We will spend most of our time today discussing the Module 9 Studio Work assignment and the Final Project

General Information: Assignments

- Week 1: Writing (World Music, Art of Noises) - **5**
- Week 2: Studio (Beautiful Sound) - **5**
- Week 3: Writing (Political Economy, Music of Environment) - **10**
- Week 4: Studio (Sound Walk) - **15**
- Week 5: Stage (Clapping) - **5**
- Week 6: Writing (Glitch and Remix) - **5**
- Week 7: Stage (Soundpainting) - **5**
- Week 8: Stage (Great Learning) - **5**
- Week 9: Studio (Magenta) - **5**
- Week 10: Final Project (Studio or Stage + Writing) - **20**

General Information: Grades posted

- Week 1: Writing (World Music, Art of Noises) - **5**
- Week 2: Studio (Beautiful Sound) - **5**
- Week 3: Writing (Political Economy, Music of Environment) - **10**
- Week 4: Studio (Sound Walk) - **15**
- Week 5: Stage (Clapping) - **5**
- Week 6: Writing (Glitch and Remix) - **5**
- Week 7: Stage (Soundpainting) - **5**
- Week 8: Stage (Great Learning) - **5**
- Week 9: Studio (Magenta) - **5**
- Week 10: Final Project (Presentations and Write-up) - **20**

General Information: Policy Reminder

Late Assignment Policy

0-24 hours late: 10% deduction

24-48 hours late: 20% deduction

>48 hours late (but before June 5 at 11:59 pm): 30%

After June 5 at 11:59 pm, all late assignments will receive a score of 0%

Assignment Resubmission Policy

If you received a score below 70% on any of the assignments in Modules 1-7, you may resubmit your assignment to receive up to a maximum score of 70%. To receive regrading, you must send me an email indicating which assignments you resubmitted and what changes you made.

Module 9: New Music (Computational Creativity)

Module 9: Objectives

1. Be able to articulate the goals of research in computational creativity
2. Explain and give examples of Boden's three kinds of creativity
3. Explain the concept of Memex and its relation to hypertext

Module 9: Live session topics

- Ask students to articulate their own creativity in terms of **Boden's types**
- Discuss the concept of **Memex** using examples of hypertext, remix, and the Magenta tools
- Discuss the concept of Memex in relation to student projects
- Review **final project proposals** and ask each student or group about their progress

Today, we will focus on the items shown in bold above as well as the Studio Work assignment for Module 9

Module 9: Important concepts

- **What is creativity?** “Valuable originality”, i.e. bringing something of value into existence that doesn’t exactly resemble something that has already existed
- **Boden’s three kinds of creativity:**
 - Combinatorial creativity: blending familiar ideas into something new
 - Exploratory creativity: discovery of unfamiliar ideas in a given “search space”. A search space may consist of a system of rules or organizing principles (e.g. traditional Western music).
 - Transformational creativity: an alteration of the “search space” to allow for new ideas
- **Memex**: a device that stores information (World Wide Web) which is easily accessible (hypertext)

Studio Work Assignment

Module 9: Studio work assignment (guidelines)

- **Description**: You have two options: (1) write a **300 word essay** about Google Magenta **OR** (2) create a **10-30 second piece of music** using Google Magenta and write a **100 word essay** about your music. Here are some guidelines for each option:
 - **OPTION 1**: First, watch some of the videos linked in the assignment prompt and skim through some of the Magenta blog posts. After you get a better understanding of what Magenta is and what its aims are, pick a specific topic to write about (e.g. NSynth Super, GANSynth, DrumBot, DDSF, etc). In your essay, you should first describe Magenta and its objectives in your own words. Then, explain your specific topic. If you still need more to write about, you could relate Magenta with other concepts we've covered in the course (e.g. Boden's types, Attali's four codes, Futurism, aesthetics of failure, generative music, etc). You may use your previous writing assignments as a guide, but please don't pull direct quotes from your previous writing.

Module 9: Studio work assignment (guidelines)

- **Assignment guidelines (continued):**
 - **OPTION 2:** First, choose one of the music-making tools mentioned in the assignment prompt. Next, create a 10-30 second piece of music. Then, record your music and submit the video file to Canvas (or submit a YouTube link). **IMPORTANT: in order to earn full credit, your piece must include both audio and video.** I will show you how to record audio and video using QuickTime Player during today's live session. After you record your music, write a 100 word essay that describes what Magenta is and how neural networks work in basic terms.

Final Project

Final project (guidelines)

- Description: create a **3-7 minute musical piece** and write a **2-3 page essay** that explains and analyzes your musical piece.
- Read the entire final project prompt on Canvas so that you understand exactly what is needed. Here are important **general** points to bear in mind:
 - Your submission is due before Tuesday, June 9 at 11:59 pm (less than 13 days away)
 - Both the musical piece and the essay must be your work (if you choose to do a performance, you must compose the music and you must perform it)
 - To earn full credit, your musical piece and essay must each **build upon your previous assignments**. In other words, you should use tools, techniques, and concepts you learned in previous assignments to create something of a higher quality than your past submissions

Final project (guidelines)

- Here are important points about your **musical piece**:
 - You may produce a piece of music on your computer or record a live performance of yourself. (Please follow the specific guidelines outlined in the project prompt for each case)
 - Before you spend several hours working on a piece, bear in mind that **you must be able justify and explain your musical piece using concepts from previous course modules in your essay** (e.g. Attali's four codes, Futurism, aesthetics of failure, remix/mashup, etc)
 - Your musical piece will be graded using the following criteria:
 - Originality: something we've discussed but haven't done (e.g. a remix/mashup, glitch)
 - Complexity: **at least 5** different sounds/compositions or performance/editing techniques
 - Well-formedness: your piece must build upon concepts we've covered in class

Final project (guidelines)

- Here are important points about your **essay**:
 - Your essay must consist of (1) an explanation and (2) a critical and comparative analysis
 - Your explanation should describe (A) your choices of sound materials, (B) organization principles, and (C) political or social statements regarding the place of your composition in today's culture
 - Your critical and comparative analysis should build upon Parts (B) and (C) of your explanation above. You should relate your work to at least one reading we discussed in the course (Russolo, Bakan, Attali, Schafer, Cascone, Navas, or Stockhausen)
 - You must demonstrate a clear understanding of at least one course concept in your essay
 - **PLEASE ORGANIZE YOUR ANSWERS USING THE NUMBERS AND LETTERS ABOVE**

Final project (Q&A)

Q: Can a performance group consist of people not in the class?

A: Yes, the performers may be people who are not enrolled in the class. The only condition is that you (and any other students enrolled in the class who are in your group) be the sole author(s) of the work, including the creation of the composition you perform as well as the writing of the essay.

Q: May we use smartphone apps and a digital audio workstation (DAW) to create our musical piece?

A: Yes

Final project (Q&A)

Q: May I add pictures to my essay to explain concepts?

A: Yes. Just make sure that the actual text of your essay is two pages long. In other words, pictures don't count towards your two-page length requirement.

Questions