Montgomery County Community College
SRT 101 (PILOT)
Sounding Out: Composing and Performing with Sound
3-3-0

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Sounding Out is an elective course in which students learn about, and explore the creation and performance of improvised music in a non-Jazz context. No previous musical training is required, only an inquisitive mind and desire to explore sound. The course provides an overview of the practice, including a historical context as well as helpful tools (e.g. graphic scores, verbal frameworks, etc.). Students will work individually and as an ensemble to create improvisational performances based on a variety of sound sources including found objects, field recordings, electronically generated or processed sounds (live or prerecorded), traditional instruments, etc. Students will also participate in the preparation and production of a program of improvised music. Students will present at least one concert and may also perform existing and established work in the discipline. Depending upon the interests of the students enrolled in the course in a specific semester, professional musicians and multimedia artists may collaborate with the students in creating the performance.

REQUISITES:
Previous Course Requirements
None

Concurrent Course Requirements
None

LEARNING OUTCOMES Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
1. Apply dimensions of sound beyond pitch and rhythm creatively in music making.	In-class listening and discussion Analysis/discussion of in-class performances Generating materials that demonstrate an understanding of these concepts	Self- and peer-evaluations of student-generated materials and performances.
2. Discuss the thinking process behind the creative use of sound sources as musical instruments.	In-class listening and discussion In-class performances using various resources	Self- and peer-evaluations of the effectiveness of materials used in student performances

LEARNING OUTCOMES	LEARNING ACTIVITIES	EVALUATION METHODS
3. Create tools such as graphic scores.	In-class presentations Mini assignments in composition/creating scores	Self- and peer-evaluations of the success of generated scores in guiding student performances
4. Perform improvised music.	In-class rehearsals and performances	Self- and peer-evaluations of the success of generated scores in guiding student performances
5. Use critical listening to function as an effective member of an ensemble performing improvised music.	In-class rehearsals and performances of existing repertoire and student-generated works	Self- and peer-evaluations of performances Work-shopping student compositions and evaluating success of performance.

At the conclusion of each semester/session, assessment of the learning outcomes will be completed by course faculty using the listed evaluation method(s). Aggregated results will be submitted to the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs. The benchmark for each learning outcome is that *70% of students will meet or exceed outcome criteria*.

SEQUENCE OF TOPICS:
1. Course Introduction
2. Critical Listening
   a. The basics of critical listening
   b. How to apply critical listening skills to all sounds
3. Performance
4. Aesthetics of Sound:
   a. Expanding awareness of sound
   b. Creating music by thinking in terms of sound rather than strictly in typically-musical terms
   c. Exploring dimensions of sound beyond pitch and rhythm
5. What makes an instrument
   a. Sound sources
   b. Exploring the sonic potential of myriad sources
   c. Using and shaping materials based on the properties of sound (e.g. timbre, frequency, spectral content, etc)
   d. Using traditional sources to generate a wide range of unexpected sounds
6. Performance
7. Technical basics of field recording as a musical practice
8. Aesthetic aspects of field recording as a musical practice
9. Performance
10. Principles of successful improvisation
    a. Principles of guided improvisation
    b. Working within established frameworks

11. Tools for organizing performances (instructions, graphic scores, etc)
    a. Guiding and shaping performances
    b. Effective use of tools
    c. Creation of tools
12. Performance
    a. Functioning as an ensemble
    b. The importance of guiding decision-making during a performance

LEARNING MATERIALS:

The instructor will provide various reading and discussion materials directly or through other sources (the internet, college library, etc). Examples might include excerpts from various writings on the topics (books, journal articles, etc), score samples from the instructor's own music as well as other established composers in the field.

COURSE APPROVAL:
Prepared by: Steve Wanna   Date: 12/1/2016
VPAA/Provost Compliance Verification:
          Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Ed. D.   Date: 12/1/2016

This course is consistent with Montgomery County Community College's mission. It was developed, approved and will be delivered in full compliance with the policies and procedures established by the College.