

# MUCT 410/514: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Innovators: John Cage

## FINAL PROJECT GUIDELINES

### SMALL GROUP PROJECT:

Students may select (by purposeful choice or using indeterminacy) from among the following final project options:

- Composition/Procedural Analysis/Presentation
- Composition/Performance/Presentation
- Performance/Analysis/Presentation
- Analysis/Presentation

### Composition:

Must be an original composition created in the spirit of John Cage, using chart techniques, chance operations, or some other composition tool/technique employed by Cage. The piece may be indeterminate, and may investigate any combination of instruments/electronics. The piece should be at least 3 but no greater than 5 minutes in length.

### Performance:

May be a performance of a piece by Cage, a recreation of a lecture by Cage, or the performance of an original composition.

### Procedural Analysis

A detailed analysis of the methods used to create an original composition, including techniques employed, formal considerations, instrumental choices, and how elements reflect "Cagean" ideals.

### Analysis

A detailed analysis of a Cage composition or lecture. Analysis must include mention of notational, harmonic, melodic, formal, and timbral components as appropriate to the piece selected. The analysis should reflect careful study of the piece and show that students have spent time researching and "learning" how the piece was constructed and what the piece means relative to Cage's ideas/philosophies.

### Presentation

A presentation similar to those you've been giving during the semester. Place the work (or the original composition) in the context of Cage's other pieces. Provide factual information as appropriate. Include I-ching readings, notational analysis, excerpts of Cage's writings, explanations of electronics/instrumentation employed, any collaborations you or Cage engaged in, etc. The presentation should encompass each module from the semester.

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## INDIVIDUAL PROJECT (graduate students only):

- Composition/Procedural Analysis as research paper
- Research Paper

Graduate students may compose an original composition or research an aspect of Cage. Topics may include research on a lecture, piece, aspect of composition, philosophy, etc.. Original compositions must be neatly scored and bound with complete instructions for performance. Accompanying the piece will be a procedural analysis/research paper, outlining procedures used and ways in which the piece reflects "Cagean" operations/ideals/techniques/philosophies.

Papers must be 5-6 pages, typed, double-spaced, one-inch margins. They may include illustrations as appropriate. Papers must include bibliographic citations in the form of footnotes, and must include a title page and bibliography.

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Final projects are due at the beginning of the final exam time, Wednesday 17 December, 1:15. Each group will present their project to the class during a 30-minute session, where 5-10 minutes should be allowed for questions. Graduate student projects will be turned in at this time. Students may not duplicate small group and individual projects.

FINAL PROJECT PROPOSALS DUE: Monday 17 November (note: this deviates from info printed in syllabus!)