The objective of this assignment is to get you to contemplate ways of developing sound with an ear toward giving your listener a sense of “the big picture”. When I listen to the examples you’ll be creating I should be able to detect a clearly articulated structural plan and an effort to create a sense of an unfolding drama.

Using Garage Band and the source sounds you’ll find in your personal folders in the “comp” directory of the academic server create 4 short (15 – 20 second) phrases:

1. A phrase with a clear A-B-A form (the repeat of A doesn’t need to be literal) using only sustained sounds. One should get a sense that the tension grows and recedes as the phrase unfolds.
2. A phrase that starts slow and gets gradually busier and louder.
3. A phrase created from a single sound clip that in which activity ebbs and flows at different rates.
4. A phrase that consists of a series of sharply defined events, all of which are related but none of which are exactly the same.

5. Using at least 2 of the above phrases, make a clearly perceivable composite form. You may repeat sections and/or sections of sections as necessary.

When you’re done write up a document on the wiki that describes how you approached making each of the above phrases: why did you end up choosing the sounds you did, what was the plan you had for putting them together, what were some of the techniques you used to develop the sounds etc.

Important: As you edit sounds make sure your edits sound “natural”; i.e. don’t chop off the ends of sounds so they end up stopping so abruptly as to sound artificial.

Please be advised that in assessing your efforts I’ll be looking for evidence that some serious effort was put into the creating of each of the phrases. You should plan to try out various techniques with the sounds (cutting and copying, creating composite sounds that you export and then bring back into Garage Band, working with pan and volume, etc.

When you’re done create a folder called “Comp_project_1” inside your personal folder. Render each of your phrases to an “aac” file (Share/Export song to disk, Check the “compress” box and make sure the encoder is set to “aac” and the audio quality is set to high.) Label the files “phrase1, phrase2, etc. and put them in the folder.

The assignment is due by midnight on Wed. 3/10.