

MUS 14A ~ Introduction to Music Technology

Fall 2022

Course Information:

- ❑ **Time:** Mondays & Wednesdays; 2:00 PM—3:20PM
 - ❑ **Room:** Hillwood Commons Room 121 (Music Technology Lab)
 - ❑ **Course Credits:** 3 hours.
 - ❑ **Prerequisites:** None.
 - ❑ **Course Number:** #54910
 - ❑ **Course Website:** <http://myweb.liu.edu/jmeschi/f22/mus14a/>
 - ❑ **Music Department Phone Number:** (516) 299-2474
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Instructors:

- ❑ **Lennon Ashton**
 - ❑ Email/Assignment Email: lennon.ashton@my.liu.edu
 - ❑ Office Hours: By appointment and online.
 - ❑ **John Meschi**
 - ❑ Email: john.meschi@liu.edu
 - ❑ Assignment Email: jmcwptech@gmail.com
 - ❑ Phone Number: (516) 299-2105
 - ❑ Office Hours: By appointment and online.
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Course Description:

- ❑ This course introduces students to digital music production, digital audio editing, sequencing, and music notation at the computer. Topics will be taught using Direct and Indirect Instruction. Topics in this course will help students gain greater awareness of cultural and global trends.
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Course Outcomes:

- ❑ Students in this course will learn/gain:
 - ❑ An overview of music and technology with essential study and reference material.
 - ❑ A perspective to the many ways people can use technology in music applications.
 - ❑ Competencies in various areas of computer and music technology including music production (digital audio and MIDI sequencing), electronic musical instruments, and music notation software.
 - ❑ A better understanding of computer hardware and the various aspects of the Internet.
 - ❑ Upon successful completion of this course, students will be prepared and eligible to enroll in more advanced music technology courses.
 - ❑ MUS 14A is a prerequisite for the following courses:
 - ❑ MUS 14B ~ Sequencing and Production.
 - ❑ MUS 14C ~ Music Notation Software.
 - ❑ MUS 214D ~ Digital Audio Workstation.
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Required Texts:

- ❑ An Introduction to Music Technology, 2nd Edition by Dan Hosken, Routledge, 2015.
 - ❑ Book's companion website: <http://www.csun.edu/~dwh50750/IntroToMusicTech/index.html>
 - ❑ There will be further readings and viewings beyond the textbook, and students will also be working with the following software programs (already on the computers in the Music Technology Lab): Audacity, GarageBand, and Finale.
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Other Required Materials:

- ❑ A flash drive to backup your projects.
 - ❑ Students may want to keep a folder for class handouts and returned quizzes.
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Core Curriculum Goals:

- ❑ Technology Competency.
 - ❑ Students will demonstrate functional use and/or effective design regarding at least one platform, system, or form of technology.
 - ❑ Creative Capabilities.
 - ❑ Students will combine or synthesize existing ideas, images, or disciplines in original ways either by making or appreciating creative work.
 - ❑ This foundational course is designed to give students a broad overview of the field of music technology, and it prepares students to take more advanced music technology courses that the Department of Music offers.
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Course Organization:

- ❑ The course content can be divided into the following areas:
 - ❑ An overview of the various types of music software.
 - ❑ An introduction to the use of computers in music production, with an emphasis on audio editing, audio/MIDI sequencing, loop-based composition, and music notation applications.
 - ❑ Each class session will consist of a lecture/discussion portion, where the reading assignment that is due that day will be explained in further detail. The concepts explained in these lectures/discussions will appear on the quizzes that appear throughout the course.
 - ❑ This is a very hands-on course, where students will be spending a considerable amount of class time working on projects to enhance their knowledge and understanding of music technology.
 - ❑ The music technology lab has open hours where students can come to work on their projects if they would like more time and/or guidance. The open-hours schedule will be posted at the start of the semester.
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Breakdown of Course Hours:

- ❑ In addition to the time you spend in class, you are expected to work on supplementary assignments outside of class. Here is a suggested breakdown of how you might organize your time for this course:
 - ❑ 3 hours/week class x 15 weeks: **45 hours**
 - ❑ Supplementary assignments: **90 hours**
 - ❑ Projects and Exercises: 50 hours
 - ❑ Readings/Videos: 20 hours
 - ❑ Quiz preparation: 20 hours
 - ❑ Total for the course: **135 hours**
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Course Assessments:

- ❑ Students are expected to complete all reading assignments, watch all videos sent to them, and participate in class discussions. There will be 4 quizzes throughout the semester (each 5% of your final grade), which are based on the reading assignments and the class lectures/discussions.
 - ❑ Students will complete a number of projects throughout the semester (TBD), as well as a final project. All technology projects will be graded based on the student's ability to follow the directions, their demonstration of understanding how to use various types of music technology software, their use of creativity, and on-time completion.
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Grading Criteria:

- ❑ Assessment in the course will be weighted as follows:
 - ❑ Semester Projects/Exercises: 50% (Soundtrack/Mixing Project = 10%; All other projects = 5%)
 - ❑ Final Project: 20%
 - ❑ Reading/Lecture Quizzes: 20% (4 quizzes at 5% each)
 - ❑ Attendance and Participation: 10%
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Grading Policy:

- ❑ All music majors must achieve a grade of "C" or higher to be given degree credit for any MUS course. Students may not move on to the next level of any sequentially based series of MUS courses unless a grade of "C" or higher is achieved.
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Attendance Policy:

- ❑ Attendance will be taken every class. Missing more than two weeks' worth of classes during the semester—excused or unexcused—will result in the student being asked to withdraw from the course or a reduction in final grade.

Course/Classroom Policies:

- ❑ Students should create a folder to save their work. It is important that they backup their work after every class (one on the lab machine, the other on a flash drive).
- ❑ If a student has the proper software and prefers to work from their own laptop to work on in-class activities and projects, they may do so with permission from the instructor.
- ❑ Inappropriate use of laptops and cell phones during class time will result in a reduction of the participation portion of the student's final grade.
- ❑ There is to be no eating or drinking in the music technology lab.
- ❑ All completed assignments should be shared via AirDrop to the instructor station or emailed to the following email addresses:
 - ❑ lennon.ashton@liu.edu
 - ❑ jmcwptech@gmail.com

University Policies and Information:

- ❑ LIU's Academic Affairs policies are located on the University website at: <https://liu.edu/about/LIU-policy/policy-by-category-listing>
- ❑ LIU Academic Catalogs may be found at: <https://liu.edu/enrollment-services/registration/academic-catalogs>
- ❑ The LIU Academic Calendar may be found at: <https://liu.edu/enrollment-services/registration/academic-calendar>

Students with Disabilities

- ❑ In compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including changes made by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, I will make accommodations for students with disabilities. It is necessary for those students to provide me with the appropriate DSS Accommodations Form by the end of the second week of classes. Please contact the office of Disability Support Services in the Center for Learning at 516-299-3057 to take appropriate steps to develop an appropriate educational plan.
- ❑ If you are a student with a documented disability, medical condition, or think you may have a disability, and will need accommodations, academic adjustments, auxiliary aids, or other services, please contact the Office of Disability Support Services by calling 516-299-3057 or emailing Post-LearningSupport@liu.edu to request services, accommodations or for additional information. Additional information is also available on the DSS website: www.liu.edu/post/dss.

The Center for Learning and The Writing Center

- ❑ LIU Post offers free tutoring in subject areas and in writing. For information about how to register for tutoring, contact:
 - ❑ The Center for Learning
 - ❑ Email: Post-LearningSupport@liu.edu
 - ❑ Phone: (516) 299-3057
 - ❑ The Writing Center
 - ❑ Email: Post-WC@liu.edu
 - ❑ Phone: (516) 299-2732
 - ❑ The Writing Center at Post provides free writing assistance to all students. Writing assistants can work with you at any point in your writing process from helping to clarify an assignment or prompt, through brainstorming, organizing and developing your ideas, citing your sources, and polishing your writing.
 - ❑ To access information about the Writing Center location and hours of operation or find links to writing resources: 1) click on the Community tab in Blackboard, 2) then click on Writing Center, 3) enroll to join the Blackboard Writing Center organization using the enrollment code: WritingC&nter, 4) then select Post Writing Center or visit our blog: <https://postwc.wordpress.com/>. Follow the Writing Center on Instagram for information and updates: @postwc
 - ❑ If you have any questions, please email Post-WC@liu.edu or contact the director, Mary Pigliacelli (Mary.Pigliacelli@liu.edu), 516-299-2732.
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Post Psychological Services

- ❑ The Center for Healthy Living offers supportive psychological and nutritional services Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is located in Post Hall, Lower Level – South Entrance (parking lot side of building). Additional information is available by emailing Post-HealthyLiving@liu.edu or calling (516) 299-3468.

Academic Integrity Policy

- ❑ Academic integrity is the practice of honesty and openness in scholarly, creative, and communal endeavors. Academic integrity is multifaceted. It involves, in addition to ethical practices, the avoidance of plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of professional and personal misrepresentation and dishonesty. Integrity is essential to the values and discourses that characterize the academic environment; to the maintenance of the academic community itself; and to the role of the academic community within society at large. Trust and integrity are integral to any relationship, whether on campus or in later personal and professional life. Plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity that have significant consequences for the student.
- ❑ Plagiarism:
 - ❑ Plagiarism is the use or presentation of ideas, words, or work that is not one's own and that is not common knowledge, without granting credit to the originator. Plagiarism may take many forms. To avoid plagiarism, always cite the source of your information whether from print, electronic/online, or other materials. The guidelines of each individual discipline must be consulted for details specific to that discipline. It is incumbent upon the student to learn and understand what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.
- ❑ Cheating includes:
 - ❑ falsification of statements or data.
 - ❑ listing of sources that have not actually been used.
 - ❑ having another individual write a paper or create a work in lieu of one's own; writing a paper or creating a work for another to use without attribution.
 - ❑ purchase of a written paper or work for the purpose of submitting it as one's own work, or selling a written paper or other work for another's submission as his/her own.
 - ❑ using written, verbal, electronic, or other sources of aid during an examination (except when expressly permitted, such as on a stated "open book" exam), or knowingly providing such assistance to another.

Withdrawal Dates:

- ❑ The last day to withdraw without the instructor's permission is September 20th, 2022.
- ❑ The last day to withdraw with the instructor's permission is November 11th, 2022.

Weekly Course Outline:

- ❑ This schedule is subject to minor change. Please be sure to check your email regularly for announcements regarding any changes to the schedule. All readings and assignments are due on the day they appear on the schedule.

Class Meeting	Lecture Topic & Reading Assignments	In-Class Activities	Project Due Dates & Quiz Dates
(W) September 7th	Introduction to Music Technology	Introductions Course Overview Questionnaire	
(M) September 12th	Chapter 1 ~ What is Sound? (pp. 5–17)	Editing Audio Exercise	
(W) September 14th	Chapter 2 ~ Sound Properties and the Waveform View (pp. 18–35)	Editing Audio Exercise	
(M) September 19th	Chapter 3 ~ The Overtone Series and the Spectrum View (pp. 36–50)	Creating a Ringtone Exercise	Editing Audio Exercise Due

(W) September 21st		Creating a Ringtone Exercise	Quiz on Section I ~ Sound (Chapters 1–3)
(M) September 26th	Chapter 4 ~ Digital Audio Software: The Digital Audio Workstation (pp. 51–80)	Editing Voice Exercise	Creating a Ringtone Exercise Due
(W) September 28th	Chapter 4 ~ Digital Audio Software: The Digital Audio Workstation (pp. 51–80)	Editing Voice Exercise	
(M) October 3rd	Chapter 5 ~ Audio Hardware (pp. 81–105)	Exploring the Music Technology Lab Equipment Exercise	Editing Voice Exercise Due
(W) October 5th	Chapter 5 ~ Audio Hardware (pp. 81–105)	Exploring the Music Technology Lab Equipment Exercise	
(M) October 10th	<i>No Classes</i>		
(W) October 12th	Chapter 6 ~ Digital Audio Data (pp. 106–119)	Soundtrack/Mixing Project	Exploring the Music Technology Lab Exercise Due
(M) October 17th	Chapter 7 ~ Audio—What Do I Need? (pp. 120–130)	Soundtrack/Mixing Project	
(W) October 19th	Chapter 8 ~ Software Instruments and Sequencing (pp. 131–171)	Soundtrack/Mixing Project	Quiz on Section II ~ Audio (Chapters 4–7)
(M) October 24th	Chapter 9 ~ MIDI Hardware (pp. 172–182)	Soundtrack/Mixing Project MIDI Exercise	
(W) October 26th	Chapter 10 ~ MIDI Messages (pp. 183–199)	Soundtrack/Mixing Project	
(M) October 31st	Chapter 11 ~ A Basic Synthesis Model (pp. 200–217)	Listen to Soundtrack Projects	Soundtrack/Mixing Project Due
(W) November 2nd	Chapter 12 ~ Synthesis Techniques (pp. 218–232)	Creating a Sample Set	
(M) November 7th	Chapter 13 ~ Sampling Techniques (pp. 233–245)	Creating a Sample Set	
(W) November 9th	Chapter 14 ~ Beyond the DAW/Sequencer (pp. 246–263)	Sequencing Project	Creating a Sample Set Due
(M) November 14th	Chapter 15 ~ MIDI and Software Instruments—What Do I Need? (pp. 264–272)	Sequencing Project	
(W) November 16th		2 Finale Projects (The Finale Puzzle and Recreating a Piano/Vocal Score)	Quiz on Section III ~ MIDI and Software Instruments (Chapters 8–15) Sequencing Project Due
(M) November 21st		2 Finale Projects (The Finale Puzzle and	

		Recreating a Piano/Vocal Score)	
(W) November 23rd	<i>Thanksgiving Holiday ~ No Classes</i>		
(M) November 28th	Chapter 16 ~ Computer Notation (pp. 273–299)	2 Finale Projects (The Finale Puzzle and Recreating a Piano/Vocal Score)	
(W) November 30th	Chapter 17 ~ Computer-Assisted Instruction (pp. 300–320)	2 Finale Projects (The Finale Puzzle and Recreating a Piano/Vocal Score)	
(M) December 5th		Final Projects	Quiz on Section IV ~ Computer Notation and Computer-Assisted Instruction (Chapters 16–17) 2 Finale Projects Due (The Finale Puzzle and Recreating a Piano/Vocal Score)
(W) December 7th		Final Projects	
(M) December 12th		Final Projects	
Final Session (TBD)		Final Projects	Final projects must be submitted within 48 hours of our final session
