



**COLLEGE OF  
ARTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
MUSIC**

**COURSE SYLLABUS:  
INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC TECHNOLOGY**

**SUMMER 2021**

**COURSE NUMBER: MUS 14A**

**NUMBER OF CREDITS: 3 credits**

**COURSE TITLE: Introduction to Music Technology**

**INSTRUCTOR: John Meschi**

**DATE SUBMITTED: June 17, 2021**

## SYLLABUS. LIU POST DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC. SUMMER 2021

**Course Title:** Introduction to Music Technology

**Course Number:** MUS 14A

**Course Description:** This course introduces students to digital music production, digital audio editing, sequencing and music notation at the computer.

**Course Objectives:** To provide an overview of music and technology with essential study and reference material; to give a perspective to the many ways people can use technology in music applications; to develop competencies in various areas of computer and music technology including music production (digital audio and MIDI sequencing), electronic musical instruments, and music notation software.

**Course Content:** Course content can be divided into the following areas: 1) an overview of the various types of music software; 2) an introduction to the use of computers in music production with emphasis on audio editing, audio/MIDI sequencing, loop-based composition and music notation applications; 3) development of competencies in writing, creating, recording, producing and mixing sound and music at a digital audio workstation.

**Instructional Activities:** In-class tutorial projects, lectures, discussions and demonstrations; selected readings and videos from the World Wide Web and distributed material; assigned projects.

**Daily Assignments:** Selected readings and videos will be assigned each day, determined by the skill level of those registered in the course.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class. Missing more than two classes – excused or unexcused – may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the course or a reduction in the student's final grade.

**Grading:** Grading will be based on attendance and completion of in-class tutorial projects and assigned reading and viewing material.

**Course Web Site and Email Address for Assignments:** The course web site is <http://myweb.liu.edu/jmeschi/su21/mus14a>. Assignments will be collected in class or submitted via email to [jmcwptech@gmail.com](mailto:jmcwptech@gmail.com).

**Note:** It is important that you backup your work after every class, either with a Flash drive or cloud storage. Never leave the lab unless you know you have two copies of your work – one on your lab machine, the other on your Flash drive or in the cloud.

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 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 Learning Support Center at 516-299-3057 so that steps can be taken 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 Marie Fatscher in Disability Support Services (Post Hall, Lower Level, C10) at 516-299-3057 or [marie.fatscher@liu.edu](mailto:marie.fatscher@liu.edu) to request services, accommodations or for additional information. Additional information is also available on the DSS website: [www.liu.edu/post/dss](http://www.liu.edu/post/dss)*

*The Center for Healthy Living offers supportive psychological and nutritional services Monday – Friday 9 am to 5 pm 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](mailto:post-healthyliving@liu.edu) or calling Lynne Schwartz at (516) 299-4162.*

## Anticipated Schedule. Introduction to Music Technology. MUS 14A, Summer 2021

Daily reading and viewing assignments to be determined

Session	Topic	Classwork
Day 1	Introduction; Overview of Course; Editing Audio	Introductions, overview of the course, some basics about Technology and Music Technology; an introduction to Audacity; <b>Audio Exercise 1</b> (Editing Audio)
Day 2	Editing Audio (cont.)	<b>Audio Exercise 2</b> (Creating a Ringtone). <b>NOTE:</b> students should bring to class a recording which contains an excerpt they would like to use to create a ringtone; <b>Audio Exercise 3</b> (Editing Voice)
Day 3	Editing Audio (cont. if needed); Multitrack Loop-based Composition	<b>Soundtrack Exercise</b> (Working in GarageBand in a multitrack environment; "soundscaping" with loops and sound effects)
Day 4	Multitrack Loop-based Composition (cont.)	Soundtrack Exercise continued
Day 5	Multitrack Loop-based Composition (cont. if needed); Electronic Keyboards	An introduction to hardware synthesizers and other electronic keyboards
Day 6	Sequencing	<b>Sequencing Exercise.</b> Creating a song (sequence) using audio and MIDI loops and original material; Basics of songwriting and creating an arrangement in GarageBand; An introduction to mixing and processing sound
Day 7	Sequencing (cont.)	Sequencing Exercise continued
Day 8	Sequencing (cont. if needed); Music Notation	<b>Finale Exercise 1.</b> An introduction to music notation using Finale; Basic score inputting
Day 9	Music Notation (cont.); Final Project	<b>Finale Exercise 2.</b> Creating a simple piano/vocal score <b>Final Project</b> <sup>1</sup>
Day 10	Final Project (cont.)	Final Project continued

<sup>1</sup> For a **Final Project**, students will choose to do a Sequencing, Notation or Advanced Audio Project with direction and assistance from the instructor.

**Assignments will be collected in class or emailed to [jmcwptech@gmail.com](mailto:jmcwptech@gmail.com)**

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**Assignments Address:** [jmcwptech@gmail.com](mailto:jmcwptech@gmail.com)

**Course Web Site:** <http://myweb.liu.edu/jmeschi/su21/mus14a>

**Instructor Web site:** <http://myweb.liu.edu/jmeschi>

Office hours by appointment and online