

Syllabus: Introduction to Music Technology

MUS 14A/714A, Fall 2016

Instructor: John Meschi

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Course Description: Students will acquire basic software skills in the use of music production tools, i.e. audio editor, loop-based editor, sequencer, and a notation program. Digital interface theory is studied so that the student understands how components interact. The course results in the production of practical arrangements that are both audible and professional looking in appearance.

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, music notation software; to develop a better understanding of computers hardware and the various aspects of the Internet.

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, MIDI sequencing, loop-based composition and music notation applications; 3) a study of the current state and use of the Internet; 4) if appropriate, development of competencies in various areas of music and computer technology as they apply to teaching music.

Required Text: An Introduction to Music Technology, 2nd Edition. Dan Hosken. Routledge, 2014.

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

Attendance: 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.

Instructional Activities: In-class tutorial projects, lectures, discussions and demonstrations; selected readings from the textbook, World Wide Web and distributed material; assigned projects. If time permits some general topics on technology will be discussed during the semester, e.g. how to establish a Web presence (blogs, Web site). All assignments submitted via e-mail should be sent to jmcwptech@gmail.com. Assignments which call for you to submit a score or other material will be collected in class.

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.

Anticipated Schedule. Introduction to Music Technology. MUS 14A/714A, Fall 2016

Week	Topic	Classwork	Reading Assignments for the Week ¹	Assignment Due Dates
9/5	Introduction; Overview of Course	Introductions, overview of the course, some basics about Technology and Music Technology		
9/12	Editing Digital Audio	More on Technology, Music Technology.; An introduction to Audacity; Audio Ex. 1 (Editing Audio) and 2 (Ringtone). NOTE: Bring an audio CD, an mp3 CD-ROM or an audio file that contains an excerpt you'd like to use as a ringtone	Ch. 1, 2 and 3	
9/19	Review of Reading Material; Editing Audio cont.	Audio Ex. 1 & 2 cont.	Ch. 1, 2 and 3 cont.	9/24- Editing Audio Exercise. Email the MP3 file to JM
9/26	Review of Reading Material; Audio cont.; Loop-Based Composition	Audio Ex. 2 & 3 (Multitrack Ringtone);	Ch. 4 and 5	10/1- Ringtone Exercise. Email the MP3 file to JM
10/3	Review of Reading Material Loop-based Composition	Audio Ex. 4 (Editing Voice); Intro to ACID	Ch. 4 and 5 cont.	
10/10	Review of Reading Material Loop-based Composition cont.	ACID (cont.); Introduction to GarageBand	Ch. 6 and 7	10/15- Multitrack Ringtone Exercise. Email the MP3 file to JM
10/17	Review of Reading Material Loop-based Composition cont. More on Technology	ACID and GarageBand cont.; Audio Ex. 5 (Soundtrack)	Ch. 6 and 7 cont.	10/22- Editing Voice Exercise. Email the MP3 file to JM
10/24	Review of Reading Material Electronic Keyboards	Audio Ex. 5 (Soundtrack) cont. Types of electronic keyboards, General features; Triton-specific features, General MIDI, etc.	Ch. 8 and 9	
10/31	Review of Reading Material Sequencing	Intro to Sonar; Sonar Ex. 1	Ch. 10 and 11	11/5- Soundtrack Exercise. Email the MP3 file to JM
11/7	Review of Reading Material Sequencing cont.	Sonar cont.	Ch. 12, 13 and 14	11/12- Sonar Ex. 1. Email the MIDI file to JM
11/14	Review of Reading Material Sequencing cont.	Intro to Finale; Finale Ex. 1	Ch. 12, 13 and 14 cont.	
11/21	Review of Reading Material Music Notation	Finale Ex. 1 & 2 <i>No class 11/24 – Thanksgiving recess</i>	Ch. 15 and 16	
11/28	Review of Reading Material Music Notation cont.	Finale Ex. 2 cont.	Ch. 15 and 16 cont.	12/3 - Finale Ex. 1. Submit the first page of score to JM
12/5	Review of Reading Material Final Projects	Work on Final Projects including one of the Suggested Activities found in the textbook's Appendix. More on this assignment in class. Last scheduled class 12/8	Ch. 17 (Music Ed majors only)	12/10 - Finale Ex. 2. Submit the entire score to JM
12/12	Finals begin 12/15	Work on Final Projects during the week		All assigned projects must be submitted by the end of semester
12/19	Final session either 12/15 or 12/20			

¹ All reading assignments are from *An Introduction to Music Technology*.

Assignments should be submitted to jmcwptech@gmail.com

Note: If time permits some Suggested Activities from the textbook will be demonstrated and/or completed in class. You may be required to submit additional assignments during the semester as these activities are completed.