Spring, 2015

Azusa Pacific University
College of Music and the Arts
School of Music

MUS 296: Intro to Music Technology
Course Syllabus

This syllabus is a contract between you, the student, and me, the instructor. It contains the objectives, procedures, and expectations necessary for successful completion of this course. Much of this information can only be found here, and won't be repeated in class. I'll expect you to know and understand everything contained in this syllabus. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me immediately.

I look forward to seeing you all in class!

Michael Lee, MM
Associate Professor of Music

1. Overview

Purpose

Technology has become the ink and paper of professional music. The ability to succeed as a composer, arranger, educator, or performer depends in large part on a musician's ability to use technology fluently and creatively. A musician embarking on their career is expected to be fluent in notation software, computer-based audio recording, and the fundamentals of sound reinforcement.

This course is designed to introduce musicians to the technologies that support their craft. It includes a review of acoustic physics and wave dynamics, and then applies those principles to understanding the function of microphones, speakers, and digital audio recording. Special emphasis is given to Logic Pro software as a platform for notation, recording, and programming.

In all of this, the goal is produce musicians who are unimpeded by technology, able to make substantial and creative use of the tools it affords in pursuit of their craft.

Prerequisite Knowledge

All students are expected to have a minimum competency with computer technology. This includes the basics of the Mac OSX operating system, familiarity with emailing attachments and downloading online files, and familiarity with basic file and application types. Students are also expected to have a minimum proficiency at the piano keyboard, including the names of notes, and the ability to execute simple written parts.

Music Majors who have not passed the Music Theory Placement Exam, and who have not been placed in Music Theory 1 or higher, are strongly encouraged to wait until they have completed Music Fundamentals before taking this course. Non-majors are strongly encouraged to contact the instructor before enrolling.

2. Course Details

Course Title: Introduction to Music Technology
Course Number: MUS 296
Unit Hours: 2
Classtime: Tuesday/Thursday, 12:50 - 1:45 PM
Classroom: WMUS-ANNEX (The MIDI Lab)
Course Website: www.apumusictech.com

Instructor: Michael Lee
Email: mlee@apu.edu
Phone: (323) 207-6533 *(for emergencies only!)*
Office: Warren Music Center, Room 231
Office Hours: Tu/Th 8:30 - 9:30 AM

Catalog Description

In this course, students study analog and digital electronic sound synthesis, theory of synthesizer operation; programming new sounds; computer applications, including sequencing, patch librarians, and programming aids; Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) and its applications; drum machines; and sampling sound synthesis.

Credit Hour Requirements

This 2-unit course will adhere to the APU Credit Hour Policy, which states that for every unit of credit a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work is expected each week. These hours will include, but not be limited to viewing online content, textbook reading and homework, research on any assigned topics, completing assigned projects as described elsewhere in this syllabus, and any other work assigned by the instructor.

In this course, students will have two 55-minute class periods per week; these are a combination of direct faculty instruction, guided projects, peer group activities and lab time. This is a 2-unit course. A minimum of 4 hours of outside-of-class work is required per week. The amount of work assigned may take more than 4 hours per week, if you desire an A in the course.

3. Mission Statements

APU Mission Statement

Azusa Pacific University exists as an evangelical Christian community of discipleship and scholarship to advance the work of God in the world through liberal arts and professional programs of higher education that encourage students to develop a Christian perspective on truth and life.

School of Music Mission Statement

The School of Music at Azusa Pacific University seeks to use God's gift of music to develop musicians of character and competence in an environment of excellence, balance and integrity.

4. Required Materials and Course Resources

Laptop and Software

All music majors are required to own a laptop that meets the minimum specifications listed online at http://www.apu.edu/cma/music/resources/laptop/.

Students are also required to install the latest version of Logic Pro software, available through the App Store. More information is available at www.apple.com/logic-pro.

All music majors should setup their Logic Pro software to conform to the APU standardized settings. Detailed instructions and downloadable files are available online at http://apumusictech.com/courses/mus296/tutorials/logic-x-setup/.

Textbooks

Required Textbook:
"An Introduction to Music Technology" by Dan Hosken. ISBN: 0415997291

Recommended Textbook:
"Sound and Recording" by Francis Rumsey and Tim McCormick. ISBN: 0240519965

Additional Materials

- Personal headphones with 1/8" (mini) jack
- Self-powered USB drive for transferring files, 1GB minimum. A USB flash drive will be sufficient.
- Coffee, Advil, Red Bull (optional)

Course Website and Sakai

This course makes extensive use of two online resources. The first is the course website, online at www.apumusictech.com. This website includes guidelines and downloadable files for all of the assignments, contains video content for the various lectures, and additional resources. Assignments will be uploaded to this website.

The second online resources is the APU Sakai page. This page is accessible by logging in to https://sakai.apu.edu. All reading quizzes will be on this site, along with Exam 2. Students can also view their grades at this site

5. Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

Outcome	IDEA Objective	Assessment
Use Logic Pro to produce audio content	Developing specific skills, competencies and points of view needed by professionals in the field	Logic Projects, Final Project
Use Logic Pro to produce music notation	Developing specific skills, competencies and points of view needed by professionals in the field	Logic Projects, Exam 1, Final Project
Use technical vocabulary to articulate foundational concepts related to music technology	Gaining factual knowledge	Reading Quizzes, Exam 2
Articulate the Christian perspective on binary math systems and digital audio recording.	Faith Integration	In-class discussion

6. Course Schedule and Assignments

Course Schedule

A detailed course schedule can be downloaded from the course website at www.apumusictech.com. This schedule contains all lecture topics, exam dates, assigned reading, and project due dates. The schedule is intended as a guide, and may be modified as the semester progresses.

Students will receive an email later in the semester indicating the date and time of the Final Exam period for their section.

Logic Projects

The student will complete a series of projects using Logic Pro. These projects are designed to focus on specific skills within the software, such as notation, production, and audio recording. Each project has a specific page on the course website, which includes the project requirements, downloadable examples, and details on how the project will be assessed. Each project will be turned in through the "Turn It In" page on the course website. Many of the projects are accompanied by video tutorials

For Logic Projects 2 - 6, a musical score will be posted on the course site. You will replicate the score as closely as possible using Logic Pro. These projects will either receive full credit if completed as assigned, or will be returned to the student for correction. Returned projects must be corrected and turned back in within one week, or the project will receive zero points. Corrected projects will be accepted for full credit.

Reading Quizzes

Throughout the course, there will be assigned reading. This reading will be indicated on the course schedule. Each reading will be accompanied by a reading quiz, available on the Sakai website. The reading quizzes are 5-10 questions long, and are open-book. You are welcome to reference the textbook while you complete the reading quiz. The reading quiz must be completed by 7:59 am in the morning on the day that the reading is listed as due on the course schedule.

Exams

There are two exams in this course. The first will text your ability to use Logic Pro as a tool for music notation. You will be given 55 minutes to duplicate a page of music notation using Logic Pro. The second will focus on technical vocabulary and core concepts related

to acoustics and music technology. It will be a 55-minute online exam taken in class. No notes may be used for either exam.

Final Project

Each student will complete a large project at the end of the semester. The project is designed to give students the flexibility to focus more deeply on specific areas of content covered in the course. Details about the final project are posted on the course website. The final project will be presented in class during the final exam period. Students are expected to both present their own project and give critique on the the projects of other students in the class. Students who do not stay for the entire final exam period should expect a reduction of credit given on their final project.

7. Information Literacy and Library Use

Information literacy is defined as "a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information" (American Library Association, 1989). In this course, teaching and learning processes will employ the following information literacy standards, as endorsed by the American Association for Higher Education (1999), the Association of College and Research Libraries (2000), and the Council of Independent Colleges (2004). The students in this course will:

- determine the nature and extent of the information needed.
- access needed information effectively and efficiently.
- individually or as a member of a group, use information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose.

This course does not make use of the APU library.

8. Assessment and Grades

Assessment Standards

For each assignment in this course, a detailed grading matrix will be given along with the project requirements. The following standards will be used in evaluating the student's work against that grading matrix.

> "A" work – Outstanding. Above and beyond the requirements of the assignment; outstanding effort and significant achievement are clearly evident. Some measure of remarkable skill, creativity, or energy is also evident. Few students should expect to receive this grade on assignments and projects.
>
> "B" work – Above Average. Fulfills all aspects of the assignment and goes a bit beyond minimum competence to demonstrate extra effort, extra achievement or extra improvement. This grade is attainable by the average student with significant effort.
>
> "C" work – Average. Fulfills all aspects of the assignment with obvious competence. Assignments are completed exactly as assigned. Most students should expect to receive this grade on assignments and projects.
>
> "D" work – Below Average. Below average either because some aspect of the assignment has not been fulfilled or because of a preponderance of errors. A "D" may also indicate failure to follow directions, failure to follow specific recommendations, or failure to demonstrate personal effort.
>
> "F" work – Not Acceptable. Not acceptable, either because the student did not complete the assignment as directed, or because the level of performance is below an acceptable level for college work.

Student Progress

Students are encouraged to check on their progress throughout the semester, and to communicate with the instructor if they are uncertain of why they received a particular grade on an assignment. Updated grade records are available throughout the semester at the Sakai site for this course.

Final Course Grade

The final grade in the course will be based on the student's score as a percentage of the total points possible, on the following percentage scale:

A 90–100
B 80–89
C 70–79
D 60–69
F 0–59

NOTE – Students pursuing admission into the Commercial Music Program must earn a B or higher in this course.

The grade for this course will be based on the cumulative scores received on all assignments. The following is an approximation of the point totals for each assignment, along with the point total for the final grade. The actual points available may be modified based on changes in the coursework assigned.

Assignment	Points
Logic Projects (4 pts. each)	40
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Reading Quizzes	10
Final Project	10
Total	100

9. Course Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

The mission of Azusa Pacific University includes cultivating in each student not only the academic skills that are required for a university degree, but also the characteristics of academic integrity that are integral to a sound Christian education. It is therefore part of the mission of the university to nurture in each student a sense of moral responsibility consistent with the biblical teachings of honesty and accountability. Furthermore, a breach of academic integrity is viewed not merely as a private matter between the student and an instructor but rather as an act which is fundamentally inconsistent with the purpose and mission of the entire university. A complete copy of the Academic Integrity Policy is available in the Office of Student Life, the Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, and online.

Don't cheat. Don't plagiarize. Don't turn in someone else's work as your own. Anyone caught cheating on any assignment will immediately fail that assignment, and will be referred to the office of the Provost for further disciplinary action.

On projects that allow for collaboration and outside participation, it is expected that the student will be the primary creative and technical contributor. Any outside help should be such that it does not detract from the student's demonstration of their own competence at the creative and technical skills taught in the course.

Policy on Missed Exams and Late Work

An exam missed due to illness may only be made up if the instructor receives a doctor's note. An exam missed due to a school event may be taken early if the student gives the instructor prior notice about the event. The instructor does not have sports team, band, or choir schedules; it's the student's responsibility to keep track of those dates, and to inform the instructor if an exam needs to be taken early. Exams missed due to school events must be taken early, and may not be made up after the exam date. Illness, with a doctor's note, and school events, with prior notification, are the only two circumstances under which an exam may be taken at a different time.

Turn in all work on time. If you fall behind, it will be very difficult to catch up with the pace of the class. All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments turned in after that will lose 25% of the total points. No work will be accepted later than 1 week after the due date. The final project will not be accepted after the final exam period.

Technology failures are never an acceptable excuse for late or missing work. Computers are unpredictable, and crashes may result in the loss of work. Printers get jammed and run out of ink, hard drives fail, and networks go down. These are all the same realities that professionals in this field deal with, and just as it is not an excuse for late work in a professional environment, it's not an excuse for late work in the academic environment. Plan accordingly, make multiple back-ups of critical assignments, and complete your work in time to allow for unexpected technical problems.

Policy on Attendance

All students are expected to attend class. Students who do not attend often miss critical content, and find themselves struggling to complete assignments in a timely and high-quality manner.

A class missed due to illness will not be excused unless accompanied by a doctor's note. A class missed due to a performance or other school obligation will only be excused if the student has been included on the official list of students in attendance by the office of the Provost.

Class will begin promptly at its scheduled time. Students who are not in class prepared to begin on time will be counted as a late. If a student is late for more than two class sessions, each subsequent late arrival will be counted as an absence.

Students who miss more than 2 unexcused class sessions will have their final grade lowered by one letter grade for each additional absence. Students who miss more than 5 unexcused class sessions will have failed the course.

Additional Policies

All University and departmental policies affecting student work, appeals, and grievances, as outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog and/or Department Handbook will apply, unless otherwise indicated in this syllabus.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit. This is college. Earn all the normal credit, and you'll be fine.

10. Tutoring, MIDI Lab, and Support Services

Tutoring

APU provide free tutoring available to all students through the Learning Enrichment Center. Students who are struggling with the course content are strongly encouraged to make use of this resource sooner rather than later. Student who make use of this tutoring often see a full letter grade improvement on their course grade when compared with students who struggle but do not make use of tutoring. More information about the Learning Enrichment Center can be found online at http://www.apu.edu/lec/.

MIDI Lab

The MIDI lab is open for student use at various times throughout the week. Check the schedule posted on the outside door, or at the course website for more details. Students are strongly encouraged to work on their Logic Projects for this course in the MIDI Lab, especially in the beginning part of the semester.

The MIDI lab is staffed by MIDI Lab Techs, students who have demonstrated strong skills in both technology and general musicality. They are available to help you with problems related to the lab computers, as well as to offer some general assistance with your laptop.

Support Services

Students in this course who have a disability that might prevent them from fully demonstrating their abilities should contact an advisor in the Learning Enrichment Center (ext. 3849) as soon as possible to initiate disability verification and discuss accommodations that may be necessary to ensure full participation in the successful completion of course requirements.