

Northern Wyoming Community College District — Sheridan College

MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology (3 credits)

Spring 2012 • T/Th • 4:00-5:20 PM

Whitney 120 • Music Department • Fine Arts Division

course site: proferickson.com/cke/musc2430

online archive of past students' work: scmusictech.net

gmail address for sharing selected class assignments: scmusictech@gmail.com

Instructor and Contact Information

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 107

Office hours: T/Th 3:00 (additional hours by appointment)

(307) 674-6446, extension 3050

dr.christian.erickson@gmail.com (preferred method of contact)

Course Description

This course explores further concepts and applications of music technology initially studied in MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology. Topics will focus on intermediate techniques in MIDI sequencing, audio signal processing, synthesis, sampling, multi-track recording, and music engraving.

Prerequisites

MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology or permission of the instructor.

Co-requisites

None

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the latest intermediate methods, software programs, and computer hardware associated with the rapidly changing field of music technology. MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology is a required course for students pursuing the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology, or it may be applied as a general elective for any Associate's degree at Sheridan College.

Course Format

Lecture

Grading

Letter

Syllabus and Calendar

Texts/Materials

- Hosken, Dan. *An Introduction to Music Technology*. New York: Routledge, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-415-99729-4
- Sennheiser HD 202 Headphones (available at the campus bookstore) or other over-the-ear headphones with a 3.5 mm mini-stereo plug and 1/4" adapter
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Access to a computer with an internet connection and a browser and equipped with an optical drive and media player software
- Storage media (CD-R or CD-RW, at least a 3-pack; USB flash drive, 2 GB or larger)
- A Google account with Gmail and Google Docs activated

Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 2430 Intermediate Tech, the student will:

- apply basic theoretical concepts and vocabulary of intermediate music technology.
- explain the functions of the components that comprise a computer music workstation.
- demonstrate competency using current software to create written and recorded music.

Course Structure

This is a hands-on, highly-interactive course. Concepts and key information will be made available to you through lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual aids, handouts, and your textbook. Ultimately, however, your self-paced work on assignments and creative projects will be where the greatest opportunities for learning lie. There are no traditional written tests like mid-term or final exams. Assessment will be based on completion of assignments and application of learned concepts and skills within student projects.

Approximate Final Grade Evaluation

40% — Creative Projects

30% — In-Class/Homework Assignments

20% — Workstation Design Proposals

10% — Quick Quizzes

Descriptions of Graded Course Components

Creative Projects: [four total] Several aspects of music technology will be presented through lectures, readings, and tutorials. Once students are familiar with certain concepts, a project based on those concepts will be assigned.

In-Class Activities/Homework Assignments: [assigned regularly throughout the semester] Concepts and skills will be reinforced via in-class demonstrations, self-paced tutorials and creative class activities. Some class time will be allotted for the completion of these activities, and some students may be able to

finish them in the space of that time. If not, the remainder of the tutorial or creative activity will be assigned as homework to be completed by the next meeting.

Workstation Design Proposals: [three total] Students will research and price several hypothetical music technology workstation setups. They will be modeled after workstation setups described in our textbook. These exercises will allow students to explore options for creating a workstation that matches his or her budget and creative needs for the time being as well as beyond completion of this course.

Quick Quizzes: [10 total] Timed quick quizzes based on the prior meeting's reading assignment will be administered periodically throughout the semester. Quizzes are given at the top of the hour at the beginning of class. These quizzes cannot be made up or completed in advance, and they will be collected at five minutes after the hour. Missing a quiz here and there will not significantly affect your final grade, but consistent performance on them is important. Therefore, please be punctual for our meetings.

Attendance & Participation: While not directly factored into your grade, attendance and participation are vital to learning. Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. You are responsible for learning all material covered in class whether you are present or not. If you do miss a meeting or a portion of one, please ask a classmate if you may review his or her notes.

Course Websites

Our class companion website for this course is available at proferickson.com. Here you'll find printable documents (such as the syllabus and other handouts), assignments and assignment resources, links to useful sites, and audio files. Any copyright-protected material will be posted in a password-protected directory (login: musc, password: 2430). The author of your text also maintains a helpful website that contains a number of links to videos, articles, and other resources. You can find a link to his site from our course page or by typing this shortcut into your browser: <http://mcaf.ee/40bef>

Late and Incomplete Assignments

Students are expected to complete all assignments by prescribed due dates. The "due date" is the beginning of the meeting following an assignment unless otherwise noted on the course calendar. Assignments submitted after the due date will be assessed a flat 25% penalty. I will accept late work up until the final day of class, so do not simply "blow off" an assignment because the due date has passed and the work is subject to a late penalty. Remember, partial credit is always better than no credit at all.

Absences and Make-up Policy

In cases of school-sponsored activities or illness resulting in an absence by the student, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance of the missed class. Absences with advance notice are considered "excused." Students are responsible for all reading, listening and other homework assigned during the absence. Absences without prior notification to the instructor ("unexcused") will automatically result in forfeiture of any possible points associated with the missed class. Quick Quizzes are exempt from this policy as they must be completed in class and cannot be made up or taken in advance.

Course Withdrawal/Petition for Incomplete Grade

Syllabus and Calendar

On occasion, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or to accomplish a satisfactory level of personal academic achievement. If you find yourself in this situation, I encourage you to visit with me to evaluate your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. If, however, a student is ever unable to fully devote his or her energies to the coursework, withdrawal may be the best option. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. Paperwork for withdrawals can be obtained from the Office of Records and Admissions.

A temporary grade of "I" or "incomplete" is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency situation that arises late in the semester. The administration of an incomplete is at the instructor's discretion. Although I can be flexible depending on the circumstances of the student, my general policy is that the student should have at least 75% of the course completed and have a current grade of C or better at the time of the request for the incomplete grade. The incomplete portion of the course must be completed by the end of the semester following the request (summer sessions excluded) or the "I" will revert to an "F."

Northern Wyoming Community College District Policies

Academic Honesty Statement: Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic honesty means performing all academic work without lying, cheating, deceit, plagiarism, misrepresentation, or unfairly gaining advantage over any other student. Violations of academic honesty are in violation of District standards for student conduct and shall result in disciplinary action.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center as soon as possible to ensure such accommodations may be implemented.

A complete list of official college policies can be found on the NWCCD website by pointing your browser to this shortcut: <http://mcaf.ee/7018c>

Course Calendar

Subject to revision. All assignments are due at beginning of the next class meeting unless otherwise noted. Quick Quizzes are over the previous day's assigned reading.

Meeting 1, January 17

- **Topics:** Syllabus Formalities; Logic Pro: Look and Feel; Loops
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 53 ("Microphones and Preamps") - 58 (up to "Signal Levels")
 - **Assignment:** Logic Loop Composition
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Meeting 2, January 19

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 1 (over previous meeting's reading assignment);** Logic Pro: Recording and Editing Audio Tracks
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 58 ("Signal Levels") - 62 (up to "Mixers")
 - **Assignment:** Logic Audio Composition
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Meeting 3, January 24

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 2;** Logic Pro: Recording and Editing MIDI Tracks
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 62 ("Mixers") - 65 (up to "Digital Audio Interfaces")
 - **Assignment:** Logic MIDI Composition
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Meeting 4, January 26

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 3;** Logic Pro: Mixing and Effects
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 65 ("Digital Audio Interfaces") - 70
 - **Assignment:** Mixing and Effects Assignment
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Meeting 5, January 31

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project I (Logic Production Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project I
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Meeting 6, February 2

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project I
 - **Assignment:** Continue Project I
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Meeting 7, February 7

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project I
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project I
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Syllabus and Calendar

Meeting 8, February 14

- **Topics:** The Journey Between Sound and Music; Principles of Synthesis; Logic's Virtual Synthesizers
 - **Reading:** Chapter 12, pp. 198-207 (up to "Basic Synth Examples")
 - **Assignment:** Apple Loops Utility Assignment; Workstation Proposal 1
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Meeting 9, February 16

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 4;** Programming Drums with Ultrabeat
 - **Reading:** Chapter 13, pp. 215-222 (up to "Frequency Modulation")
 - **Assignment:** Ultrabeat Assignment
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Meeting 10, February 21

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 5;** Logic Studio: Apple Loops Utility
 - **Reading:** Chapter 13, pp. 222 ("Frequency Modulation") - 229 (up to "Non-Commercial Software Synthesizers")
 - **Assignment:** Multi-Sample Instrument Assignment
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Meeting 11, February 23

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 6;** Sampling and Sample Players; Logic's EXS24 mkII
 - **Reading:** Chapter 14
 - **Assignment:** Synthesis Assignment
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Meeting 12, February 28

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project II (Sound Design Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project II
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Meeting 13, March 1

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project II
 - **Assignment:** Continue Project II
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Meeting 14, March 6

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project II
 - **Assignment:** Finish Project II
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Meeting 15, March 8

- **Topics:** Course Interlude—Intro to Programming Environments, Pure Data (pd)
 - **Reading:** Chapter 13, pp, 229 (“Non-Commercial Software Synthesizers”) - 231
 - **Assignment:** Pure Data Activity I; Workstation Proposal 2
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Spring Break, March 12-16; No Class Meetings

Meeting 16, March 20

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 7;** Pure Data (pd) (continued)
 - **Reading:** View selected Web multi-media (see course site)
 - **Assignment:** Pure Data Activity II
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Meeting 16, March 22

- **Topics:** Notation Revisited; Intro to LilyPond
 - **Reading:** View selected Web multi-media (see course site)
 - **Assignment:** LilyPond Assignment
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Meeting 17, March 27

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 8 (over LilyPond concepts);** Intermediate Techniques in Sibelius: Using the Ideas Library to Create a Score
 - **Assignment:** Sibelius Ideas Composition Assignment
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Meeting 18, March 29

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 9 (over Sibelius Ideas Library concepts);** Intermediate Techniques in Sibelius: Scanning & Piano Reduction
 - **Reading:** Chapter 15, pp. 259-260 (up to “File Importing”)
 - **Assignment:** Sibelius Scanning Tutorial
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Meeting 19, April 3

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 10;** Intermediate Techniques in Sibelius: Standard MIDI File Import & Arranging
 - **Reading:** Chapter 15, pp. 260 (“File Importing”) - 261 (up to “Note Entry”)
 - **Assignment:** Sibelius Import/Arranging Tutorial
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Meeting 20, April 5

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project III (Intermediate Notation Techniques Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project III
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Syllabus and Calendar

Meeting 21, April 10

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project III
 - **Assignment:** Continue Project III
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Meeting 22, April 12

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project III
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project III
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Meeting 23, April 17

- **Topics:** Intro to Film Scoring, Part I
 - **Reading:** View selected Web multi-media (see course site)
 - **Assignment:** Film Score Assignment, Part 1, Workstation Proposal 3
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Meeting 24, April 19

- **Topics:** Intro to Film Scoring, Part II
 - **Assignment:** Film Score Assignment, Part 2; Search for a suitable movie clip to score
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Meeting 25, April 24

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project IV (Film Score Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project IV
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Meeting 26, April 26

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project IV
 - **Assignment:** Continue Project IV
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Meeting 27, May 1

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project IV
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project IV
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Meeting 28, May 3

- **Topics:** CD Mastering with Waveburner Pro
 - **Assignment:** Mastering Assignment
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FINAL EXAM TIME—TUESDAY, MAY 8, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM: FILM SCORING PRESENTATIONS; LAB TIME FOR ANY OUTSTANDING ASSIGNMENTS OR PROJECTS