MUS 240  Introduction to Digital Music Production I - Syllabus

3 Credits.
Monday 5:30 - 8:00  CRN 60686

INSTRUCTOR:  Dr. Renee Arakaki
CONFERENCE:  Anytime by email or phone, or by appointment
TELEPHONE:  235-7481  Email: reneea@hawaii.edu / wcc.mus.240@gmail.com
EFFECTIVE DATE:  Spring 2014

WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Windward Community College offers innovative programs in the arts and sciences and opportunities to gain knowledge and understanding of Hawai‘i and its unique heritage. With a special commitment to support the access and educational needs of Native Hawaiians, we provide O‘ahu’s Ko‘olau region and beyond with liberal arts, career and lifelong learning in a supportive and challenging environment — inspiring students to excellence.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Introduction to digital music and sound production on the Macintosh platform via Logic: MIDI sequencing and editing, audio recording and editing, mixing and mastering; preparing audio files for CD, video and web applications; proper use of processor and effects plugins.

This course is intended for musicians, songwriters, composers and performers. You do not need to know how to read music, and previous experience with MIDI or audio recording is not necessary. You do, however, need to be familiar with the Mac OS X System and a piano keyboard, and should be able to pick out a simple tune (ex. “Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star”) by ear.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The tangible student learning outcomes for the course are:

• Use MIDI sequencing and audio recording software as tools for music composition, arranging and performance.
• Apply basic skills in MIDI sequencing and editing, and digital audio recording and editing to audio mixing and mastering of projects.
• Prepare audio files in different formats for CD, video and web applications.
• Apply basic understanding of sound processing to audio plugin settings.
• Produce a final project to document learned skills in MIDI and audio recording and editing, mixing, mastering and bouncing.

The main goal of this course is to teach you how to produce professional sounding recordings of your music using a computer, software, and affordable equipment. Although Logic is used for class, you will be able to apply what you learn to any professional DAW. You will learn professional techniques and procedures for effective and efficient MIDI and audio recording, mixing, processing, bouncing and mastering.

A second goal is the acquisition and application of critical listening and assessment skills; for example, learning to identify what makes a recording “good” as well as being able to offer specific solutions for recordings that need improvement. This applies to visual assessment too, i.e. - What’s wrong with this picture?
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

This course will be making regular use of Laulima and UH Email. Links to Laulima and Email are on the WCC Homepage: www.windward.hawaii.edu.

In order to succeed in this course, you must:

• Attend class. Make-up lectures and assignments don’t happen.
• Take advantage of extra time in class to ask questions while completing assignments.
• Log into Laulima regularly for review materials
• Be able to upload completed assignments, by stated deadlines, to the MUS 240 Dropbox on the WCC server.
• Log into your UH Email account regularly to retrieve any important messages

CAMPUS WORKSTATIONS

Our classroom, Palanakila 124, is available only during class time. There are two other WCC on-campus locations with Macs set up with Logic:

   
   Borrow the key from the Library during their open hours. Keep the key around your neck in order to prevent locking yourself out of the studio. The key must be returned to the library by the time due, or at least 15 minutes prior to library closing. Library Late fees will apply. There is a $50 fee for a lost key.

   Note: This is the only on-campus site available for audio recording. Please be considerate of classmates needing to use the studio, too.

   In the studio: Password protected iMac set up with Logic Pro X, KB37, Shure Mic, Mic cable, Mic Stands with mic clips, pop filter, instrument cable for recording guitar or keyboard, electric piano, extra headphone jack adaptor (leave plugged into the KB37 headphone jack).

2. Library.
   
   iMac #10 is set up with Logic, and a KB37 can be borrowed from the circulation desk for use in the library.
   
   Bring your own headphones and headphone jack adaptor to use with the KB37.

ASSIGNMENTS

This course is divided into four units: Logic: Mixing and Bouncing; MIDI; Audio; Final Project. Each unit begins with lessons and assignments (homework, quizzes) designed to teach you vocabulary, procedures and techniques essential to digital music production. Units 1 through 3 end with a student project to document what was learned; the Unit 4 project is the Final Project, encompassing everything learned through the semester.

Due dates and times are indicated on the course schedule. All assignments are due by the date and time given. No late work will be accepted.

Most class sessions will include time for you to complete assignments. Some homework assignments and project work may require work to be done outside of class time.

All completed work is to be submitted to the MUS 240 DropBox on the WCC Mac Server. Files can be submitted from the classroom Macs AND any Mac connected to the internet, anywhere in the world. Instructions for submitting assignments to the MUS 240 Dropbox on the WCC Server are on the Quick Reference sheet.
Types of Assignments:

- **Homework** (10 @ 20 points ea.) – There will be 10 homework assignments requiring that you submit work to the MUS 240 Dropbox on the WCC server.

- **Quizzes** (10 @ 20 points ea.) – There will be 10 multiple choice/True-False quizzes on the information presented in class: terminology, definitions and technical procedures, and practical (hands on) technique.

- **Projects** (4 @ 150 points ea.) – Three projects will cover topics in sequence: 1) basic skills, 2) MIDI, and 3) Audio. The fourth, final project will showcase the cumulative skills acquired through taking the course. All project mp3 files will be posted on WCC’s website: [http://windward.hawaii.edu/Credit_Courses/MUS240/Student_Showcase/](http://windward.hawaii.edu/Credit_Courses/MUS240/Student_Showcase/)

- **Class Participation** (200 points total) – There is frequent in-class discussion, and questions can be voiced at any time. Attendance counts, since being in class is the only way you can earn participation points.

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND GRADING

Grading (A through F) is based on the number of points earned through performance on homework, quizzes, projects and class participation. If you specified CR/NC as your grading option, you must earn at least 820 points to receive CR.

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<th>Maximum possible points:</th>
<th>Grading:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homework (10) 200</td>
<td>1080-1200 A 720 – 819 D</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10) 200</td>
<td>960 – 1079 B 719 and below F</td>
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<td>Projects (4) 600</td>
<td>820 – 959 C</td>
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<td>Class Participation 200</td>
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LEARNING RESOURCES

- Instruction includes handouts, in-class interaction, and review movies. Handouts will be distributed at the beginning of each class. Handouts and review movies will be archived in Laulima’s Resources section for student access after class.

- If you are using on-campus computers to do your work, you should save your files on a personal portable drive, or to your personal folder on the WCC Student Server.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- If you do not intend to check your UH Email regularly, set forwarding to an address that you do check several times per week. Instructions: [http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Forwarding_UH_GMail.pdf](http://windward.hawaii.edu/technology/Forwarding_UH_GMail.pdf)

- In the event of illness or emergency, please contact Renee via email, phone or Laulima ASAP.

  Although I do not accept late work, **accommodation for missed assignments may be negotiated with documentation of extenuating circumstances**. This means that if circumstances beyond your control affect your ability to submit your work on time, we might be able to work something out.
When working in the Palanakila 103 Studio, be aware that the room is not totally soundproofed. The studio is for MUS 240 student use only. Other people should not be in there unless you are recording them.

Obey any orders from security guards and other WCC staff or faculty to vacate or lock up. Inform Renee of what happened if you believe you were asked to leave prematurely. It could be that someone from a nearby classroom complained, or that the guards aren’t aware of our key arrangement. Regardless, please honor staff requests and let Renee investigate and resolve any problems.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

If you have a physical, sensory, health, cognitive, or mental health disability that could limit your ability to fully participate in this class, you are encouraged to contact the Disability Specialist Counselor to discuss reasonable accommodations that will help you succeed in this class. Ann Lemke can be reached at 235-7448, lemke@hawaii.edu, or you may stop by Hale ‘Akoakoa 213 for more information.