MUS 240 Introduction to Digital Music Production I - Syllabus

3 Credits. Fulfills Diversification Arts (DA) Core

MW 5:30 - 7:00 CRN 60500

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Renee Arakaki
CONFERENCE: Anytime by email or phone, or by appointment
TELEPHONE: 235-7481 Email: reenea@hawaii.edu
EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2015

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‘olaup 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 and audio recording and editing, mixing and bouncing to complete projects.
- Articulate what contributes to making a professional quality audio and MIDI recording.
- Articulate what contributes to an interesting musical piece.
- 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 (home studio). 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.
- Be able to upload completed assignments, by stated deadlines, to the designated DROP BOX.
- Check your UH Email account at least twice per week to retrieve any important messages.
- Log into Laulima at least once per week for info on the HOMEPAGE and files under RESOURCES.

CAMPUS WORKSTATIONS

Our classroom, La‘akea 110, will be available for student use during Library open hours, and non-class time. Procedure will provided with the assignment of Project 1.

ASSIGNMENTS

This course is divided into four units - 1) Working in Logic: Arranging, Mixing and Bouncing; 2) MIDI; 3) Audio; and 4) the Final Project which includes everything learned. Each unit begins with lessons and assignments (homework, quizzes) to teach you vocabulary, procedures and techniques essential to digital music production. Each unit ends with a project for you to demonstrate what you’ve learned from that unit. The final project encompasses everything learned through the semester, documenting that you learned what you signed up for!

All assignments are due by the date and time given on the schedule. *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 dropbox designated in Project 1. Files can be submitted from the classroom Macs AND any Mac connected to the internet, anywhere in the world. (Hint: There’s no excuse for not turning in your work.)

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/
- **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**

- You will need to purchase your own headphones.
- The class textbook, in Apple iBook form, will be distributed in class on a high performance SDHC disk which you’ll use in class. The cost for the disk (approx. $10) is to be reimbursed to the instructor by the end of Unit 1.
- Instruction includes handouts, in-class interaction, and review movies. Handouts and movies are part of the iBook.
- 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**

- In the event of illness or emergency, 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. BUT, you have to notify me prior to missing class.
- The La’akea 110 Digital Media Lab is for the use of students in digital media courses only. No other students are allowed. Refer others to the computers on the main floor of the library, the TRiO Lab, and the ICS Lab in Pālanakila 124.
- Always obey any orders from security guards and other WCC staff or faculty to vacate the room or building.

**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.