

MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology (3 credits)

Spring 2023 • T/Th • 4:00-5:20 PM

Whitney 139 • Music Department • Fine and Performing Arts Division

course site: proferickson.com

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 140-J

Office hours: MTWTh 1:00-2:00 PM; F 2:00-3:00 (additional hours by appointment)

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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, the AFA in Music (Music Technology Emphasis), or it may be applied as a general elective for any Associate's degree at Sheridan College.

Course Format

Lecture

Grading

Letter

Texts/Materials

- Manzo, V.J. *Foundations of Music Technology* (second edition). New York: Oxford University Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-0-19-936829-7
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Over-the-ear headphones with a 3.5 mm mini-stereo plug and 1/4" adapter
- Access to a computer with an internet connection
- USB flash drive, 4GB or larger
- A Google account with Gmail and Google Drive 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

50% — Creative Projects

25% — In-Class/Homework Assignments

15% — Workstation Design Proposals

10% — Quick Quizzes

Descriptions of Graded Course Components

Creative Projects: [six 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: [9 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).

Late and Incomplete Assignments

Just as regular practice for lessons and ensembles is vital for the growth of musicianship, so too is consistent reinforcement of concepts and skills explored and developed in academic music classes. Therefore it is the policy of the Sheridan College Department of Music to expect our students to complete assignments by prescribed due dates. Assignments submitted after the due date will NOT be accepted. In the event of a documented emergency, late work may be accepted at the discretion of the instructor. **Note:** As the course officially ends after the the final project presentations, absolutely no late submissions will be accepted after our scheduled final meeting time concludes.

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

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.

Institutional Attendance Policy: Regular attendance is expected of all students attending NWCCD so they may fully benefit from the educational experience. Students receiving financial aid must regularly attend class and actively participate in their coursework in order to earn their aid. Students failing to do so may be held liable for returning financial aid funds. Visit the Office of Financial Aid Services for more information.

Disability Statement: Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class must contact the disabilities services coordinator on their campus as soon as possible to request such accommodations.

Health and Safety Guidelines: The safety of our students, employees, and communities is at the forefront of our decision-making. Our core mission is education, and our commitment to providing quality learning opportunities for all is central to our path forward. While the District cannot eliminate the risk of exposure to or transmission of COVID-19, or other communicable diseases, we are committed to implementing practices and behaviors that mitigate the risk of illness. These include self-screening and remaining at home if feeling ill, frequent handwashing, cleanliness of teaching and learning spaces and seeking professional medical attention/advice as needed. Guidance regarding conduct and compliance can be found in the NWCCD Employee Handbook and the NWCCD Student Code of Conduct. Information regarding all safety precautions and requirements can be found at www.sheridan.edu/updates.

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 24

- **Topics:** Syllabus Formalities; Logic Pro: Look and Feel; Loops
 - **Reading:** Chapter 8, pp. 121-125
 - **Assignment:** Logic Loop Composition
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Meeting 2, January 26

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 1 (over previous meeting's reading assignment) Due;** Logic Pro: Recording and Editing Audio Tracks
 - **Reading:** Chapter 8, pp. 126-129 (up to "Psychoacoustics")
 - **Assignment:** Logic Audio Composition
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Meeting 3, January 31

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 2 Due;** Logic Pro: Recording and Editing MIDI Tracks
 - **Reading:** Chapter 8, pp. 129 ("Psychoacoustics") - 130 (up to "Loudness")
 - **Assignment:** Logic MIDI Composition
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Meeting 4, February 2

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 3 Due;** Logic Pro: Mixing and Effects
 - **Reading:** Chapter 8, pp. 130 ("Loudness") - 133
 - **Assignment:** Mixing and Effects Assignment; Workstation Proposal 1
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Meeting 5, February 7

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 4 Due;** Lab Time for Project I (Logic Production Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project I
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Meeting 6, February 9

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project I
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 51-55 (up to "Physical Modeling")
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project I
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Meeting 7, February 14

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 5 Due;** Intro to Synthesis; Classic Synthesis Techniques, Part 1
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 61 ("Subtractive Synthesis") - 62
 - **Assignment:** Subtractive Synthesis and Wavetable Synthesis Exercise with Retro Synth
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Meeting 8, February 16

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 6 Due;** Classic Synthesis Techniques, Part 2
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, pp. 56 ("Combining Waves") - 61 (up to "Subtractive Synthesis")
 - **Assignment:** Oscillator Sync Synthesis and Frequency Modulation Synthesis Exercise with Retro Synth
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Meeting 9, February 21

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 7 Due;** Contemporary Synthesis Techniques, Part 1
 - **Reading:** Chapter 5, pp. 55 ("Physical Modeling") - 56 (up to "Combining Waves") and pp. 63-65
 - **Assignment:** Hybrid Synthesis Exercise with the ES2
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Meeting 10, February 23

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 8 Due;** Contemporary Synthesis Techniques, Part 2
 - **Assignment:** Physical Modeling Exercise with Sculpture; Workstation Proposal 2
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Meeting 11, February 28

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project II (Synthesis Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project II
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Meeting 12, March 2

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project II
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project II
 - **Reading:** Chapter 4, p.63 (up to "Granular Synthesis") and Chapter 5, pp. 76 ("Sampling") - 78 (up to "Other Protocols")
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Meeting 13, March 7

- **Topics: Quick Quiz 9 Due;** Intro to Sampling, Sequencing, and Sound Design; Sampling with Quick Sampler
 - **Assignment:** Quick Sampler Instruments Exercise
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Meeting 14, March 9

- **Topics:** Sampling with Sampler and Auto Sampler
 - **Assignment:** Sampler and Auto Sampler Exercise
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Meeting 15, March 14

- **Topics:** Drum Machine Basics
 - **Assignment:** Drum Machine Designer Exercise
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Meeting 16, March 16

- **Topics:** Step Sequencer Basics
 - **Assignment:** Step Sequencer Exercise; Workstation Proposal 3
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Meeting 17, March 28

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project III (Sound Design Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project III
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Meeting 18, March 30

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project III
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project III
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Meeting 19, April 4

- **Topics:** Course Interlude—Clip-Based Production and Live Performance Tools; Intro to Live Loops
 - **Assignment:** Live Loops Recording Exercise
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Meeting 20, April 6

- **Topics:** Creating Live Loops Sets and Performing with Remix FX
 - **Assignment:** Original Live Loops Set with Remix FX
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Meeting 21, April 11

- **Topics:** In-Class Performances of Original Live Loops Sets
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Meeting 22, April 13

- **Topics:** Intermediate Techniques in Dorico: Extensible Markup Language Import & Piano Reduction
 - **Assignment:** Dorico Import/Reduction Tutorial
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Meeting 23, April 18

- **Topics:** Intermediate Techniques in Dorico: Standard MIDI File Import & Arranging
 - **Assignment:** Dorico Import/Arranging Tutorial
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Meeting 24, April 20

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project IV (Intermediate Notation Techniques Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project IV
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Meeting 25, April 25

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project IV
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project IV
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Meeting 26, April 27

- **Topics:** Intro to Film Scoring, Part I
 - **Assignment:** Film Score Assignment, Part 1
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Meeting 27, May 2

- **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 28, May 4

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project V (Film Score Project)
 - **Assignment:** Begin Project V
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Meeting 29, May 9

- **Topics:** Lab Time for Project V
 - **Assignment:** Complete Project V
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Meeting 30, May 11

- **Topics:** Presentation of Film Scores
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