MUSI 4390.003: Introduction to MIDI Sound Synthesis and Control
Spring Semester 2015
T/TH 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
Location of Class: PAC 306

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for both music majors and non-majors, this course introduces students to the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) sequencing using computer software and keyboard synthesizers. Students learn concepts, basic theory and techniques, and the application of MIDI technology to the production of music. Hands-on projects are completed using MIDI keyboard synthesizers and sequencer software.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The students will gain an extended comprehension MIDI technology and the ability to apply their knowledge in a variety of settings. The student will be able to create sequences, integrate control surfaces, create session lead sheets, and automate synthesizer parameters using MIDI. The student will gain the knowledge in sound design and synthesizer construction.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS


BLACKBOARD ACCESS

This class utilizes Blackboard technology for assignments and supplemental materials. Students needing access instructions or help with Blackboard can refer to the Island Online website (http://distance-education.tamucc.edu). Be sure and check the Student Resources Link (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html) which includes useful documents such as Steps to Preparing Your Computer for Blackboard (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/techreq.html).

ASSIGNMENTS & PROJECTS

Weekly assignments and readings will be given as new techniques and principles are discussed in class. Assignments will be due weekly and discussed in depth. As the class progresses, the students will be given lab assignments in PAC 306 for practice and application of material covered in class.
EXAMINATIONS

There will be a mid-term and a final examination (comprehensive of the entire semester). The main purpose of the examinations is to verify that the students comprehend the techniques and principles taught in class and can readily apply them in a short period of time. There will be quizzes in written format and/or laboratory format.

GRADING PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Assessment of the student's work is based on the following criteria:

- Command and application of the material covered in the classroom.
- Command of terminology.
- Comprehension of the application of MIDI as a whole.
- The ability to utilize the equipment correctly and effectively in a timely manner as needed in the recording/mix down session.

GRADING SYSTEM

The student's final grade will be drawn from grades received for each component of the course:

Sequencing Projects 25%
Synthesis Projects 25%
Assignments 20%
Performance Project 10%
Mid-Term Exam – Written 10%
Final Exam – Written 10%

COURSE OUTLINE

This is subject to change, dependent on the needs and progress of the class.

ATTENDANCE

Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class. After 3 absences, each unexcused absence will drop your final grade 4 percent.

**** After 6 absences, your grade will be an automatic F. ****

This is a music department policy.

Perfect attendance will be rewarded with 4 percent being added to your final grade. Only one absence will be rewarded with 2 percent being added to your final grade. Tardiness will count as 1/2 an absence. Leaving early will count as 1/2 an absence.

Notice to Students with Disabilities: Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible. Please have your accommodation letter from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi
Disability Services (DS) Office with you when you come see me. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Disability Services Office (located in 116 Corpus Christi Hall) at 361.825.5816.

**Academic Advising:** The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Grade Appeal Process:** As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at [http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.