Applications Music Technology
MIND 3311.001
Fall Semester 2016
Location of Class: PAC 306
Dr. Brian R. Thacker
Office: CA 109
Phone: (361) 825-3291
Email: brian.thacker@tamucc.edu
T/Th 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Designed for both music majors and non-majors, this course will focus on hands-on learning in a workshop environment. Students will gain perspective on the people, procedures, data, software, and hardware associated with the creation of music. Topics discussed include: computer proficiency, MIDI, computer based notation, sequencing, music evaluation, music and the internet, and current trends in music technology.

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).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. The student will have a conceptual overview of music and technology, by combining tutorial material with essential reference material.

2. Will have a broad perspective to the many ways that people can use technology in music applications.

3. Will have a systems approach to computer understanding, planning, and implementation by stressing five components: people, procedures, data, software, and hardware.

4. Will understand hardware and software unique to music applications.
5. Will understand the conceptual and generic issues and concepts that underlie current commercial hardware and software.

6. Will understand the essential uses and applications for the computer in the teaching environment and be able to suggest specific software to meet educational needs for performing, describing, and creating music.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and readings will be given as new concepts and principles are discussed in class. The topics and assignments will cover:

- Online searches
- Finding MIDI files
- Finding Audio files
- Finding Loop files
- Music Notation assignment (exact copy)
- Music Notation assignment (arrangement)
- Sequencing assignment (simple arrangement)
- Sequencing assignment (advanced arrangement)
- Sound Editing assignment

Projects

- Notation Project (original/complex arrangement - Music Majors Only)
- Audio Processor Reports (non-Music Majors Only)
- Sequencer Project (public display of class projects)

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 music technology as a whole.

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

- Assignments 30%
- Tests 20%
- Project #1 20%
- Project #2 20%
Mid-Term 5%
Final Exam 5%

Assignments: All assignments are due one week after they are assigned.

Late Assignments and Projects: In the event that you turn in assignments or projects late, 1 letter grade will be deducted for each class meeting until it is submitted. Assignments will not be accepted after one week.

In the event that you are confronted with a genuine family emergency or serious personal health issue, please discuss the matter with me as soon as possible.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 Introduction & computer basics
Week 2-5 Finale & hardware/software topics
Week 6 Class presentations of Finale Projects/Audio Processor Reports
Week 7 Introduction to Digital Audio Workstations
Week 8-13 Pro Tools & Audio Files Topics
Week 14 Class Presentations of Pro Tools Projects

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.

The music department’s attendance policy for academic courses is the following:
- You are allowed four absences from class for any reason.
- Each tardy will count as ½ an absence.
- After the fifth absence, your final course grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

After the sixth absence, you will receive a failing grade in the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the loss of a letter grade.
DROPPING A CLASS

It is hoped that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

GRADE APPEALS

Students who feel they have 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. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website (http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

Recommended text or compose your own] In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within
two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.