



# Midi I-17726

## MUSC-1331

RT 2022 Section 4 3 Credits 08/23/2021 to 12/12/2021 Modified 08/22/2021

### Course Meetings

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#### Course Modality

Online on a Schedule First 4 Weeks

#### Meeting Days

Mondays

#### Meeting Times

12:00pm - 3:50pm

#### Meeting Location

Zoom for First 4 weeks

### Welcome and Instructor Information

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#### Instructor: Mr. Aric Nitzberg

Email: [aric.nitzberg@hccs.edu](mailto:aric.nitzberg@hccs.edu)

Office: PAC 440c

Phone: 713.718.5621

#### What's Exciting About This Course

MIDI 1 is your introduction to the world of music production. Whether you are an artist, songwriter, or aspiring producer, this course will equip and inspire you to create music on the computer using modern, professional software.

#### My Personal Welcome

Welcome to MIDI 1—I'm glad that you have chosen this course! I have been a professional musician for over 25 years, and a music producer for more than 10 years. I'm excited to share my knowledge and experiences with you. I will present the information in the most exciting way I know, so that you can grasp the concepts and apply them now and hopefully throughout your life.

As you begin your creative journey and learn new skills and concepts that may challenge you, I am available to support you. The fastest way to reach me is by my HCC email. The best way to really discuss issues is in person and I'm available during posted office hours to tackle the questions. My goal is for you to walk out of the course with a better understanding of music, the industry, and yourself. So please visit me or contact me by email whenever you have a question.

#### Preferred Method of Contact

Canvas Inbox or email preferred. If you contact me through Inbox, I will receive a notification on my phone, so that is the quickest way to get in touch.

If you call my office phone, please leave a voicemail message and include your name, the class you are in, and your call back number.

## Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:00 AM to 10:45 AM

## Course Overview

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### Course Description

An overview of the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) system and applications. Topics include the history and evolution of MIDI, hardware requirements, computer numbering systems, channels and modes, the MIDI language, and typical implementation of MIDI applications in the studio environment using software-based sequencing programs.

### Requisites

None. No Prerequisites are required for this course.

### Department Website

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/audio-recording-technology/>

## Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

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### Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Can be found at: <https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/audio-recording-technology/>

### Course Student Learning Outcomes (CSLOs)

Upon completion of MUSC 1331, the student will be able to:

1. Summarize the MIDI protocol.
2. Set up a MIDI controller-virtual instrument and/or external hardware instrument.
3. Utilize software-based sequencing programs

## Departmental Practices and Procedures

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### Program-Specific Student Success Information

#### Equipment Orientation

In order to succeed in the Audio Recording Program, students should take advantage of the equipment and resources available for checkout and use.

***ALL students must complete an Equipment Orientation for their classes EVERY SEMESTER in order to access the equipment and other resources like computers/editing labs.***

Further information about the dates and availability of the Orientation are found in this syllabus, but if you have any questions, you can discuss with your Instructor or with the Studio Manager Misty Barham at [misty.barham@hccs.edu](mailto:misty.barham@hccs.edu).

You must complete the Orientation by the deadline and fill out the Audio Recording Lab Agreement online at the end of the orientation or you will not be able to use the studios, audio equipment or computer labs for the entire semester!

### Instructional Materials

The [HCC Online Bookstore \(https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks\)](https://hccs.bnccollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks) provides searchable information on textbooks for all courses. Check with your instructor before purchasing textbooks because the book might be included in your course fees.

### Modern MIDI

**Author:** Sam McGuire

**Publisher:** Routledge

**Edition:** 2nd

**ISBN:** 978-1-138-57877-7

**Availability:** Inclusive Access, HCC Bookstore, other vendors

#### Inclusive Access

This course participates in the Houston Community College First Day Program. A discount has been applied to the required digital course materials. The discounted charge has been added to students' tuition and fee bills.

Students will access course materials through a link in Canvas. Instructions for opting out of the HCC First Day Program are also posted in Canvas. Students who opt out will still be responsible for obtaining required course materials.

### Stereo Headphones

You will need a pair of stereo headphones for this class. Any headphones will work as long as you can connect them to your computer at home for the first 4 weeks.

When we return to campus, your headphones will need a 1/8" (3.5mm) stereo plug (standard on most headphones) to connect to the computers at HCC.

If you are planning to purchase headphones, I recommend a Google search for "Best Headphones for Music Production Under \$\_\_\_" and enter your maximum price.

### USB Flash Drive

When we return to campus you will need a USB flash drive to store your work.

8gb minimum recommended, but a smaller drive will work for a while.

External hard drives are not recommended due to possible compatibility issues (especially if you use a PC at home).

### Computer with Internet Connection

For the first 4 weeks you will need access to a computer (PC or Mac) with a reliable Internet connection.

You will also need the Google Chrome Internet browser. Instructions to download the browser will be provided.

When we return to campus we will be using the HCC Mac computers.

### MIDI Controller

For the first 4 weeks you will need a MIDI controller to use with your home computer. I will be sharing information about how to check one out from HCC inventory if you need to borrow one. There is no cost to you to use it.

## Incomplete Policy

In order to receive a grade of Incomplete ("I"), a student must have completed at least 85% of the work in the course. In all cases, the instructor reserves the right to decline a student's request to receive a grade of Incomplete.

## Missed Assignments/Make-Up Policy

All assignments including Labs, Projects, Quizzes, and Exams have fixed due dates.

- Labs turned in after due date will lose 10 points per class meeting.
- Quizzes may only be made up if student documents an emergency.
- Mid Term Project turned in after due date will lose 10 points per class meeting.
- Mid Term Exam may only be made up if student documents an emergency.
- Final Project will not be accepted after due date. Grade will be 0.
- Final Exam MUST be taken during scheduled times on Finals Week.

## Academic Integrity

Here's the link to the HCC information about academic integrity (Scholastic Dishonesty and Violation of Academic Scholastic Dishonesty and Grievance):

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>  
(<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-procedures/>)

## Attendance Procedures

Attendance is required for all scheduled meetings, both online and in person.

It is important that you attend class! Attendance will be taken every class meeting, and Attendance will count as 10% of your final grade. Per HCC policy, you may be withdrawn from the class if you miss more than 12.5% of class meetings. Students who miss the first two class meetings will be counted as "Never Attended" and will be withdrawn by the Administration.

## Student Conduct

These are my expectations for student conduct in class and during lab times:

1. Attend regularly, Arrive on time (both online and in person)
2. Bring what you need
3. Refrain from conversation during instruction (although questions are welcome!)
4. Treat everyone with respect

Consequences that will be implemented for disruptive behavior can include removal from the classroom and being withdrawn from the course.

## Instructor's Course-Specific Information

I make every effort to grade assignments and labs promptly and give meaningful feedback to help you achieve success in this course and throughout your career.

If at any time you do not understand why you received any specific grade, please contact me to discuss it.

## Devices

Use of electronic devices (phone, tablets, personal laptops, etc.) is permitted in class, as long as sound, ringer, and alerts are kept off and you are using it individually. It is strongly advised that you stay engaged in the class and refrain from texting, watching videos, playing games, or engaging in other non-class related activity. If you are using a device in any way that is distracting to other students or the instructor, you will be asked to put it away. Placing or taking phone calls or using voice-to-text in the classroom is not permitted. If you must use your phone, please leave the classroom first.

*Note: the policy above pertains mainly to face-to-face instruction. For online courses, please be mindful of background or other sounds when your computer microphone is unmuted, which may be a distraction to other students.*

## Faculty Statement about Student Success

Expect to spend some extra hours per week outside of class mastering the course content. Additional time may be required for Lab assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities
- Reading the textbook

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires practice, completing all lab work, and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

## Faculty-Specific Information Regarding Canvas

This course section will use Canvas (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)) to supplement in-class assignments, exams, and activities.

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## Social Justice Statement

Houston Community College is committed to furthering the cause of social justice in our community and beyond. HCC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status. I fully support that commitment and, as such, will work to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. In this course, we share in the creation and maintenance of a positive and safe learning environment. Part of this process includes acknowledging and embracing the differences among us in order to establish and reinforce that each one of us matters. I appreciate your suggestions about how to best maintain this environment of respect. If you experience any type of discrimination, please contact me and/or the Office of Institutional Equity at 713-718-8271.

## HCC Policies and Information

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### HCC Grading System

HCC uses the following standard grading system:

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
A	Excellent (90-100)	4
B	Good (80-89)	3
C	Fair (70-79)	2
D	Passing (60-69), except in developmental courses.	1

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0
IP	In Progress. Given only in certain developmental courses. A student must re-enroll to receive credit.	0
COM	Completed. Given in non-credit and continuing education courses.	0

## Link to Policies in Student Handbook

Here's the link to the HCC Student Handbook <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>) In it you will find information about the following:

- Academic Information
- Academic Support
- Attendance, Repeating Courses, and Withdrawal
- Career Planning and Job Search
- Childcare
- disAbility Support Services
- Electronic Devices
- Equal Educational Opportunity
- Financial Aid TV (FATV)
- General Student Complaints
- Grade of FX
- Incomplete Grades
- International Student Services
- Health Awareness
- Libraries/Bookstore
- Police Services & Campus Safety
- Student Life at HCC
- Student Rights and Responsibilities
- Student Services
- Testing
- Transfer Planning
- Veteran Services

## Link to HCC Academic Integrity Statement

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/faculty/student-conduct-resources-for-faculty/>)

## Campus Carry Link

Here's the link to the HCC information about Campus Carry:

<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/police/campus-carry/>)

## HCC Email Policy

When communicating via email, HCC requires students to communicate only through the HCC email system to protect your privacy. If you have not activated your HCC student email account, you can go to [HCC Eagle ID \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-e-maileagle-id/) and activate it now. You may also use Canvas Inbox to communicate.

## Office of Institutional Equity

Use the link below to access the HCC Office of Institutional Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/>))

### Ability Services

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including long and short term conditions, mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please meet with a campus Abilities Counselor as soon as possible in order to establish reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are established through an interactive process between you, your instructor(s) and Ability Services. It is the policy and practice of HCC to create inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. For more information, please go to <https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/ability-services/>)

### Title IX

Houston Community College is committed to cultivating an environment free from inappropriate conduct of a sexual or gender-based nature including sex discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual violence. Sex discrimination includes all forms of sexual and gender-based misconduct and violates an individual's fundamental rights and personal dignity. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex-including pregnancy and parental status in educational programs and activities. If you require an accommodation due to pregnancy please contact an Abilities Services Counselor. The Director of EEO/Compliance is designated as the Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator. All inquiries concerning HCC policies, compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations (such as Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504), and complaints may be directed to:

David Cross  
Director EEO/Compliance  
Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity  
3100 Main  
(713) 718-8271  
Houston, TX 77266-7517 or [Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu](mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu) (<mailto:Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu>)

<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/> (<http://www.hccs.edu/departments/institutional-equity/title-ix-know-your-rights/>)

### Office of the Dean of Students

Contact the office of the Dean of Students to seek assistance in determining the correct complaint procedure to follow or to identify the appropriate academic dean or supervisor for informal resolution of complaints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/about-hcc/procedures/student-rights-policies--procedures/student-complaints/speak-with-the-dean-of-students/>)

## Student Success

Expect to spend at least twice as many hours per week outside of class as you do in class studying the course content. Additional time will be required for written assignments. The assignments provided will help you use your study hours wisely. Successful completion of this course requires a combination of the following:

- Reading the textbook

- Attending class in person and/or online
- Completing assignments
- Participating in class activities

There is no short cut for success in this course; it requires reading (and probably re-reading) and studying the material using the course objectives as a guide.

## Canvas Learning Management System

Canvas is HCC's Learning Management System (LMS), and can be accessed at the following URL:

<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu>)

HCCS Open Lab locations may be used to access the Internet and Canvas. For best performance, Canvas should be used on the current or first previous major release of Chrome, Firefox, Edge, or Safari. Because it's built using web standards, Canvas runs on Windows, Mac, Linux, iOS, Android, or any other device with a modern web browser.

Canvas only requires an operating system that can run the latest compatible web browsers. Your computer operating system should be kept up to date with the latest recommended security updates and upgrades.

## HCC Online Information and Policies

Here is the link to information about HCC Online classes, which includes access to the required Online Information Class Preview for all fully online classes: <https://www.hccs.edu/online/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/online/>)

## Scoring Rubrics, Sample Assignments, etc.

Look in Canvas for the scoring rubrics for assignments, samples of class assignments, and other information to assist you in the course. <https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap> (<https://eagleonline.hccs.edu/login/ldap>)

## Instructor and Student Responsibilities

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through learner-centered instructional techniques
- Provide a description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness, and making up assignments
- Provide the course outline and class calendar that will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students during office hours, and before and after class as required

As a student, it is your responsibility to:

- Attend class in person and/or online
- Participate actively by reviewing course material, interacting with classmates, and responding promptly in your communication with me
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts, and all assignments
- Be aware of and comply with academic honesty policies in the [HCCS Student Handbook](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/) (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/student-handbook/>)

## Sensitive or Mature Course Content

In this college-level course, we may occasionally discuss sensitive or mature content. All members of the classroom environment, from your instructor to your fellow students, are expected to handle potentially controversial subjects with respect and consideration for one another's varied experiences and values.

## EGLS3



The EGLS<sup>3</sup> ([Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/)) will be available for most courses near the end of the term until finals start. This brief survey will give invaluable information to your faculty about their teaching. Results are anonymous and will be available to faculty and division chairs after the end of the term. EGLS<sup>3</sup> surveys are only available for the Fall and Spring semesters. -EGLS3 surveys are not offered during the Summer semester due to logistical constraints.

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/egls3-evaluate-your-professors/>)

## Housing and Food Assistance for Students

Any student who faces challenges securing their foods or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Dean of Students at their college for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so.

This will enable HCC to provide any resources that HCC may possess.

## Student Resources

### Tutoring

HCC provides free, confidential, and convenient academic support, including writing critiques, to HCC students in an online environment and on campus. Tutoring is provided by HCC personnel in order to ensure that it is contextual and appropriate. Visit the [HCC Tutoring Services \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/tutoring/) website for services provided.

### Libraries

The HCC Library System consists of 9 libraries and 6 Electronic Resource Centers (ERCs) that are inviting places to study and collaborate on projects. Librarians are available both at the libraries and online to show you how to locate and use the resources you need. The libraries maintain a large selection of electronic resources as well as collections of books, magazines, newspapers, and audiovisual materials. The portal to all libraries' resources and services is the HCCS library web page at <https://library.hccs.edu> (<https://library.hccs.edu>).

### Supplementary Instruction

Supplemental Instruction is an academic enrichment and support program that uses peer-assisted study sessions to improve student retention and success in historically difficult courses. Peer Support is provided by students who have already succeeded in completion of the specified course, and who earned a grade of A or B. Find details at <https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/>).

### Resources for Students:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>  
(<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/resources-for-students/>)

### Basic Needs Resources:

<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/>)

### Student Basic Needs Application:

[https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH)  
([https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH](https://hccs.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_25WyNx7NwMRz1FH))

## COVID-19

Here's the link to the HCC information about COVID-19:

<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/>)

# Instructional Modalities

## In-Person (P)

Safe, face-to-face course with scheduled dates and times

## Online on a Schedule (WS)

Fully online course with virtual meetings at scheduled dates and times

## Online Anytime (WW)

Traditional online course without scheduled meetings

## Hybrid (H)

Course that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

## Hybrid Lab (HL)

Lab class that meets safely 50% face-to-face and 50% virtually

## Course Calendar

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### Syllabus Modifications

The instructor reserves the right to modify the syllabus at any time during the semester and will promptly notify students in writing, typically by e-mail, of any such changes.

HCC Calendar: MUSC 1331 CRN 17726 Fall 2021		
Classes Begin	8/23/2021	
Holidays and Breaks	September 6 Labor Day November 25-28 Thanksgiving	
Last day to drop classes with a grade of W	October 29	
Instruction ends	December 12	
Final examination	Week of December 13	
Week	Dates	Topic/What's due
1		<b>Introduction</b>  Introduce Yourself! Discussion  Audio Orientation/Lab Use Agreement  Textbook  History of MIDI (web content)  Syllabus Overview

2	<p><b>Getting Started</b></p> <p>Active Listening Lecture</p> <p>Google Chrome (download link)</p> <p>Soundation Registration</p> <p>Lab 1 Favorite Sounds</p> <p>MIDI Controller Sign Out</p> <p>Listening Discussion</p>
3	<p><b>Music Theory and Working In Soundation</b></p> <p>Musictheory.net</p> <p>Soundation Tutorials</p> <p>Lab 2 Sound Sets</p>
4	<p><b>DRUMS!</b></p> <p>Note Values Review (video)</p> <p>Counting and Clapping (video)</p> <p>Amen Break (video)</p> <p>Roland TR-808 (web article)</p> <p>Akai MPC (web article w sound samples)</p> <p>Lab 3 Drums</p> <p>Dig Deeper (James Brown Funky Drummer)</p>

## Additional Information

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### Audio Recording Technology

[Audio Recording \(https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/audio-recording-technology/\)](https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/audio-recording-technology/)

### Process for Expressing Concerns about the Course

If you have concerns about any aspect of this course, please reach out to your instructor for assistance first. If your instructor is not able to assist you, then you may wish to contact the Department Chair.

Michael Cohn

[Michael.cohn@hccs.edu](mailto:Michael.cohn@hccs.edu) / 713.718.6523