



REMIXING IN ABLETON LIVE - Northwest Spring Branch Campus

MUSC 1350
SPRING 2020
Spring Branch Campus- Room 417
T/Th, 5-8pm
16 weeks

Prof. David Sharma: david.sharma@hccs.edu

Learning Web: <https://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/david.sharma>

Office hours: **by appointment**

Course Description & Goals

An introduction and overview of remix as a concept and construct in modern music; we will trace the conceptual and contextual roots of remix through Jamaica, the US, UK and International markets and consider the creative, business, and artistic implications of a remix-- all while learning the DAW software Ableton Live 10. Ableton Live is the perfect environment for remixing-- which, in this class, means to reinterpret and contextualize macro and micro ideas from preexisting audio in order to create new compositions.

ALL students are required to complete the online Lab Orientation.

Exams/Grades/EGLS3:

This class moves quickly and while there is ample time for in-class work, you must stay current with the lessons.

Attendance: 10% of your grade. Attendance is noted at the beginning of the class-- come to class and don't be late. If you want an A, you have to come to class.

Homework: 40% of your grade. Follow the rubrics, but take chances and experiment in your homework and classwork. We will assess all homework as a group crit.

Final Project: 50% of your grade. THERE IS NO MAKEUP EXAM.

Work turned in late will have 11 points automatically taken off for each day past the due date. **Work will not be accepted after 1 week's lateness.**

Students are asked to participate in the online survey, EGLS3. Please take a picture of your "submission accepted" page and email it to me-- 5 points will be added to your score if you show proof of participation.

REMIX: CLASSROOM CULTURE

We are all adults and should expect to be treated as such in action, word, and deed. Take care of each other and help each other out... and all audio work must be done in headphones, NOT using the computer's speakers.

Prerequisites:

Students **MUST** have taken and passed MIDI 1 (not taking it concurrently). Students must be comfortable with email, file transfers, and Mac OS X.

Required materials:

- Pocket USB Flash Drive (1 GB minimum)
- A Dropbox, Google Drive or OneDrive account (you get a OneDrive account free with your HCC email)
- Notebook for notes
- Stereo headphones or earbuds, HARDWIRED (not bluetooth/airpods) with a 1/8" TRS plug

Accessing project materials & submitting work:

All project details, materials, and rubrics will be located on my Learning Web page for download; all projects **MUST** be submitted via file transfer or email.

Textbook:

None; some readings to be assigned via email or handout.

Phones:

You are welcome to record lessons on your phone for your personal use, but those recordings may not be shared (YouTube, Vimeo etc) as per HCC policy. Phones are allowed in this class, but you may not take or make phone calls in the classroom.

Notes:

You may take notes on whatever medium that works for you-- paper, laptop, phone, video, or any combination thereof. With that said-- writing things down on paper reinforces your learned knowledge. Typing doesn't.

CALENDAR/SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRO TO REMIXES, INTRO TO SOFTWARE, INTRO TO CLASS:

Introduction to class & expectations; orientation details. Mac OS X, file organization; Intro to Ableton Live, Session view, Arrangement view, Navigation; DJ Day! Brief history of vinyl records-- 78's, 45's/singles, 12" singles, dubplates. How to beatmatch on vinyl, how to mix genres. Oral/video introduction to Jamaican soundsystem history.

Week 2: **WARPING: project 1 assigned.** Introduction to warping: warp techniques and when to use them, choosing warp algorithms. Warping against the metronome in arrange view.

Week 3: **WARPING PRACTICE, MORE SOFTWARE:** Warping 2 songs of different tempos in arrange view; how to split, consolidate and duplicate clips. Mixing in Ableton Live; intro to auto filter.

Week 4: **Project 1 due; MACRO; INTERMEDIATE WARPING, SESSION VIEW; project 2 assigned:** Group review of project 1. Review of session view and how it works with arrange view; warping multiple clips in a single project; using warping to define "big" ideas; arranging clips in session view.

Week 5: **MICRO: ADVANCED WARP TECHNIQUES; INTRODUCTION TO ABLETON INSTRUMENTS:** using warp markers and warp algorithms as creative tools; intro to Simpler; Simpler modes, with a focus on slicing; Simpler filter modes. Using simpler to isolate "small" ideas; intro to Drum Rack; Slice to Drum Rack.

Week 6: **Project 2 due; DRUMS!; SIMPLER DEEP DIVE; project 3 assigned:** Group review of project 2. Analysis and lexicon of genre-specific drum patterns using an acoustic drum kit. List of Genres. Programming drums in MIDI in Ableton Live; investigating the kits. Using Simpler and warp algorithms to create new rhythms and melodies from warped material; using macro & micro ideas together.

Week 7: **BASSLINES, SCENES AND ARRANGEMENTS:** creating a bassline to complement audio from Simpler; using scenes in Session View to create sections of a song; understand genre-specific arrangements of songs.

Week 8: **Project 3 due; WARPING AN ACAPELLA; CLIPS; MIDI MAPPING; project 4 assigned:** Group review of project 3. Assessing an acapella; how to warp an acapella against a click. The macro importance of the original context of an acapella. Introduction to clips and samples in Live 10 Standard and Suite. Mapping controls for track on/off, volume, send A, send B.

SPRING BREAK

Week 9: **PRACTICE; PLAYING AN ARRANGEMENT; ARRANGEMENT VIEW & SESSION VIEW CAN LIVE TOGETHER!:** Acapella warping practice; review of global quantize; “playing” the mapped parameters, automation, recording a performance via Session Record.

Week 10: **Project 4 due; RACKS; GROUPING; INTRODUCTION TO FINAL PROJECT:** Group review of project 4. Genre & rhythm review; archetypal rhythms & arrangements. Review Drum Rack. Intro to Instrument Rack & Effect Rack. Intro to grouping. Intro to Final Project; from here there will be a very short lesson each day, with the bulk of our time used to create and develop your final projects.

Week 11: **GENRE GROUPINGS; CLASSWORK; LISTENING SESSION:** re-assess project 2, create genre groups characteristic of tempo, aesthetics, arrangement structure, rhythmic structure. Re-clarify the deliverables for the final project; download and investigate stems for final project.

Week 12: **DUB 101: DUB AESTHETICS & REMIX HISTORY; DUB IN ABLETON LIVE:** Class views the first ½ of of the film “Dub Echoes;” defines the archetypes of dub. Creating micro out of macro/inverse. Discuss the parallels of dub techniques vs. remix techniques. Dub-focused review of delay, distortion, and reverb. Intro to Drum Buss.

Week 13: **WARPING STEMS; MORE MIX; CLASSWORK:** Intro to warping multiple clips to a master clip; changing that master clip for more accurate warping; review of warping techniques. Review of mix knowledge from previous courses-- gain structure, levels, digital audio etc; notable remixes & dubs that have pushed audio boundaries.

Week 14: **DUB 102: INTERMEDIATE MIDI MAPPING; CLASSWORK:** Dub techniques for Ableton Live, briefly revisiting project 4; creating a dub from a warped acapella, 3 clips and FX sends via session record; adjusting parameters and MIDI mapping min/max values.

Week 15: **RESAMPLING; CLASSWORK:** capturing a moment to re-use as a musical element; classwork.

Week 16: **CLASSWORK; FINAL PROJECTS DUE:** Final projects due on the last day of class. Group review of Final Projects. Remix Party!

Schedule is subject to change without prior notice

Instructor Requirements

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide project rubrics explaining how student grades are determined
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Describe any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of classroom and HCC policies
- Provide the course outline and class calendar
- Arrange to meet with individual students at office hours

To be successful in this class, it is the student's responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- 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
- Complete the class with a 70% passing score

Program/Discipline Requirements

1. Students must turn in all assignments to be eligible to pass the course.
2. Students should turn in assigned work on time. As stated before, Assignments that are turned in late will lose 11 points for every subsequent class day that the work is not turned in.
3. Students are expected to attend all classes.

Student Learning Outcomes in Remixing with Ableton Live:

Working with and producing remixes in Ableton Live; advanced production and performance skills in Ableton Live; Creative interpretation strategies; understanding remix history and culture; understanding copyright and creative commons issues with a remix; Remix as a business strategy; Remix as a cross-platform creative concept. Using Ableton Live to create via pastiche. Expanding ideas of reharmonization, rhythmic interpretation, structural analysis of existing work. Understanding what a DJ does, and how DJ culture is intertwined with remixes.

Students will understand and apply methodologies and techniques to use Ableton Live as a creative base; create remixes of existing material, collaborate.

SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards The following workplace competencies and foundation skills have been designed into this course curriculum.

1. Participating as a team member in a music production environment.
2. Mastering marketable skills producing and creating music in a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) along with outboard gear.

Instructional Methods

Instruction includes project-based learning, discussions, demonstrations, lectures, videos, and peer-to-peer learning.

HCC Grading Scale

90-100 = A 80 - 90 = B 70 - 79 = C 60 - 69 = D Below 60 = F

Grading Criteria: Your instructor will conduct quizzes, exams, and assessments that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 requires that institutions have policies and procedures that protect students' rights with regard to sex/gender discrimination. Information regarding these rights are on the HCC Website under Students Anti-discrimination. Students who are pregnant and require accommodations should contact any of the ADA Counselors for assistance.

It is important that every student understands and conforms to respectful behavior while at HCC. Sexual misconduct is not condoned and will be addressed promptly. Know your rights and how to avoid these difficult situations. Log in to www.edurisksolutions.org. Sign in using your HCC student email account, then go to the button at the top right that says Login and enter your student number.

Campus Carry

At HCC the safety of our students, staff, and faculty is our first priority. As of August 1, 2017, Houston Community College is subject to the Campus Carry Law (SB11 2015). For more information, visit the HCC Campus Carry web page.

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 [Houston, TX 77266-7517](#) or Institutional.Equity@hccs.edu

ADA Accommodations:

HCC strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including 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 <http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/disability-services/>