

MUSC 1270 Fundamentals of Music Production

CIP Code: 10.0203 (Recording Arts Technology/Technician)

Credits: 2 (1 lecture, 3 lab) / 64 Contact Hours / 16 weeks

Course Prerequisites: MUSC 1335 and MUSC 1331 with a minimum grade of C or better; MUSI 1301

Instructor: Glen Ackerman

Instructor Contact Information:

Email: glenious@gmail.com

Phone: text is best 832-859-1003

Learning Web:

Office hours: *by appointment*

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and just to discuss course topics. Feel free to come by my office anytime during these hours.

Course Description

An introduction to the art of producing music in the modern recording studio. The focus of the course will be on the process involved in taking a song idea from initial inception to final commercial release. Topics will include appropriate choice of genre, song construction, demoing material, producing charts and lead sheets, digital tempo and rhythmic manipulation, managing musicians during tracking sessions, mixing aesthetics, and final mastering and packaging of a product.

Prerequisites

MUSC 1335 and MUSC 1331 with a minimum grade of C or better; MUSI 1301

Ability to play an instrument (guitar, bass, keyboard, drum set) or sing is preferred but not essential.

There is no textbook for Fundamentals of Music Production. However, students should obtain and bring a folder or binder as handouts will be given throughout the semester.

Course Goals

Students will listen to, analyze and perform a variety of rock styles. Students will develop an ability to recognize and incorporate characteristics of different styles. Students will also develop skills in interpreting written music and chord charts. Students

will prepare for and participate in a recording project in conjunction with the HCC Audio Department.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Define, compare, and contrast contemporary music in a variety of rock genres.
2. Interpret written music and chord charts in regards to time signatures, rhythms, song structures, and chord symbols.
3. Identify instrumentation, time signatures, song structures and other musical elements by listening to recorded examples.
4. Examine the critical issues and challenges facing the music industry.

Learning objectives

Students will:

1. Maintain a written journal of music listening and participation.
2. Present a musical selection to the class representing a favorite artist.
3. Learn and rehearse music selections in an ensemble setting.
4. Develop ability to interpret written arrangements and chord charts.
4. Participate in a recording project.

SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards

Credit: 2 (1 lecture, 3 lab)

This course is designed to help individuals participate and gain experience in music ensemble performance. Topics include music theory basics, arrangements, creating and interpreting scores and chord charts, effective use of rehearsal time, recording studio techniques.

10 WEEK CALENDAR

WEEK ONE

Introduction
Student Survey, Listening Assignment, Journal.
Jam Session
Rhythm Grid

WEEK TWO

Rehearse
Lecture: Form, SHMRG

WEEK THREE

Rehearse
Lecture: Arranging and Instrumentation, Sheet Music

WEEK FOUR

Rehearse, Choose Song
Lecture: Instrumentation in Commercial Music
Mid-Semester Evaluation

WEEK FIVE

Instructor Selections
Lecture: Studio Efficiency

WEEK SIX

Tracking

WEEK SEVEN

Tracking

WEEK EIGHT

Mixing

WEEK NINE

Mixing and Mastering

WEEK TEN

CD RELEASE

Instructional Methods

MUSI 1223 Fundamentals of Music Production is a required course for all Audio Recording Technology AAS majors.

As an instructor, I want my students to be successful. I feel that it is my responsibility to provide you with knowledge concerning the field of music, modeling good teaching strategies, and organizing and monitoring experiences that allow you to connect the information that you learn in this course to the real world of music.

As a student wanting to learn about the music industry, it is your responsibility to attend class, participate in classroom activities, and enjoy yourself while experiencing the real world of music performance.

As I believe that engaging the students in the learning is essential for teaching to be effective, you will spend the majority of class time involved in collaborative activities, mostly performing music and listening to music. You will be involved in discussions with your classmates and your instructor. As you will want to contribute to these discussions, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss, analyze and evaluate music.

Student Assignments

Assignments have been developed that will enhance your learning. To better understand a topic, you will be given assignments on key information that you will need to remember for your success in your career as a musician. Students will be required to successfully complete the following:

- **Listening Assignment**
Each student will bring in one recorded song for the class to listen to and analyze.
- **Journal**
Students will keep a weekly journal documenting participation in music-related activities.
- **Desert Island Music** (*optional extra credit assignment*)
Students will create a list of music they consider essential to bring along if they were stranded.

HCC Policy Statement - ADA Services to Students with Disabilities

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty are only authorized to provide only the accommodations

requested by the Disability Support Services Office. The ADA counselors:
Northwest ADA Counselors:

Lisa Parkinson – [713.718.5422](tel:713.718.5422) (officed at Spring Branch)

Dr. LaRonda Ashford – [713.718.5409](tel:713.718.5409) (officed at Katy)

HCC Policy Statement: Academic Honesty

A student who is academically dishonest is, by definition, not showing that the coursework has been learned, and that student is claiming an advantage not available to other students. The instructor is responsible for measuring each student's individual achievements and also for ensuring that all students compete on a level playing field. Thus, in our system, the instructor has teaching, grading, and enforcement roles. You are expected to be familiar with the University's Policy on Academic Honesty, found in the catalog. What that means is: If you are charged with an offense, pleading ignorance of the rules will not help you. Students are responsible for conducting themselves with honor and integrity in fulfilling course requirements. Penalties and/or disciplinary proceedings may be initiated by College System officials against a student accused of scholastic dishonesty. "Scholastic dishonesty": includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, and collusion.

Cheating on a test includes:

- Copying from another students' test paper;
- Using materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- Collaborating with another student during a test without authorization;
- Knowingly using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of a test that has not been administered;
- Bribing another person to obtain a test that is to be administered.

Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own written work offered for credit.

Collusion mean the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work offered for credit. Possible punishments for academic dishonesty may include a grade of 0 or F in the particular assignment, failure in the course, and/or recommendation for probation or dismissal from the College System. (See the Student Handbook)

HCC Policy Statements

Class Attendance - It is important that you come to class! Attending class regularly is the best way to succeed in this class. Research has shown that the single most important factor in student success is attendance. Simply put, going to class greatly increases your ability to succeed. You are expected to attend all lecture and labs regularly. You are responsible for materials covered during your absences. Class

attendance is checked daily. Although it is your responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop you for excessive absences.

If you are not attending class, you are not learning the information. As the information that is discussed in class is important for your career, students may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of six (6) hours of instruction. The six hours of class time would include any total classes missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving class early.

You may decide NOT to come to class for whatever reason. As an adult making the decision not to attend, you do not have to notify the instructor prior to missing a class. However, if this happens too many times, you may suddenly find that you have “lost” the class.

Poor attendance records tend to correlate with poor grades. If you miss any class, including the first week, you are responsible for all material missed. It is a good idea to find a friend or a buddy in class who would be willing to share class notes or discussion or be able to hand in paper if you unavoidably miss a class.

Class attendance equals class success.

HCC Course Withdrawal Policy

If you feel that you cannot complete this course, you will need to withdraw from the course prior to the final date of withdrawal. Before, you withdraw from your course; please take the time to meet with the instructor to discuss why you feel it is necessary to do so. The instructor may be able to provide you with suggestions that would enable you to complete the course. Your success is very important. Beginning in fall 2007, the Texas Legislature passed a law limiting first time entering freshmen to no more than **SIX** total course withdrawals **throughout** their educational career in obtaining a certificate and/or degree.

To help students avoid having to drop/withdraw from any class, HCC has instituted an Early Alert process by which your professor *may* “alert” you and HCC counselors that you might fail a class because of excessive absences and/or poor academic performance. It is your responsibility to visit with your professor or a counselor to learn about what, if any, HCC interventions might be available to assist you – online tutoring, child care, financial aid, job placement, etc. – to stay in class and improve your academic performance.

If you plan on withdrawing from your class, you **MUST** contact a HCC counselor or your professor prior to withdrawing (dropping) the class for approval and this must be done **PRIOR** to the withdrawal deadline to receive a “W” on your transcript. ****Final** withdrawal deadlines vary each semester and/or depending on class length, please visit the online registration calendars, HCC schedule of classes and catalog, any HCC Registration Office, or any HCC counselor to determine class withdrawal deadlines. ***Remember to allow a 24-hour response time when communicating via email***

and/or telephone with a professor and/or counselor. Do not submit a request to discuss withdrawal options less than a day before the deadline. If you do not withdraw before the deadline, you will receive the grade that you are making in the class as your final grade.

Repeat Course Fee

The State of Texas encourages students to complete college without having to repeat failed classes. To increase student success, students who repeat the same course more than twice, are required to pay extra tuition. The purpose of this extra tuition fee is to encourage students to pass their courses and to graduate. Effective fall 2006, HCC will charge a higher tuition rate to students registering the third or subsequent time for a course. If you are considering course withdrawal because you are not earning passing grades, confer with your instructor/counselor as early as possible about your study habits, reading and writing homework, test taking skills, attendance, course participation, and opportunities for tutoring or other assistance that might be available.

Classroom Behavior

As your instructor and as a student in this class, it is our shared responsibility to develop and maintain a positive learning environment for everyone. Your instructor takes this responsibility very seriously and will inform members of the class if their behavior makes it difficult for him/her to carry out this task. As a fellow learner, you are asked to respect the learning needs of your classmates and assist your instructor achieve this critical goal.

Use of Camera and/or Recording Devices

As a student active in the learning community of this course, it is your responsibility to be respectful of the learning atmosphere in your classroom. To show respect of your fellow students and instructor, you will turn off your phone and other electronic devices, and will not use these devices in the classroom unless you receive permission from the instructor.

Use of recording devices, including camera phones and tape recorders, is prohibited in classrooms, laboratories, faculty offices, and other locations where instruction, tutoring, or testing occurs. Students with disabilities who need to use a recording device as a reasonable accommodation should contact the Office for Students with Disabilities for information regarding reasonable accommodations

Instructor Requirements

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 class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up

- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

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:
- Listening Assignment, Journal
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments

Grading

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.

Grading Scale

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
Below 60 = F

Grading will be based on attendance, class participation, completion of Journal and participation in the recording project as follows:

Attendance:	40%
Class Participation:	30%
Journal:	20%
Recording:	10%

There are also opportunities to earn extra credit throughout the semester.