



Fundamentals of Music Producti-17501

MUSC-1270

RT 2021 Section 2 2 Credits 08/23/2021 to 12/12/2021 Modified 09/23/2021

Course Meetings

Course Modality

In-Person

Meeting Days

Wednesday

Meeting Times

6pm-9:50

Meeting Location

Northwest College Town and Country Campus, Fine Arts Building, Sound Stage

Welcome and Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Glen Ackerman

Email: glen.ackerman@hccs.edu

What's Exciting About This Course

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

My Personal Welcome

Welcome to FOMP! –I'm delighted that you have chosen this course! One of my passions is to teach, create, record music. I will present this courses information in the most exciting way I know, so that you can grasp the concepts and apply them now and hopefully throughout your career.

As you wrestle with new ideas and music that may challenge you, I am available to support you. The fastest way to reach me is by text (832-859-1003). 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 how music is produced. So please visit me or contact me by text, or email whenever you have a question.

Preferred Method of Contact

glen.ackerman@hccs.edu

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Course Overview

Course Description

Fundamentals of Music Production. Credits: 2 (1 lecture, 3 lab). 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 sessions, mixing aesthetics, and final mastering and packaging of a product.

Requisites

Prerequisite: MUSC 1427, 1331, grade of c or higher. Frequent Requisites: MATH 1308, GUST 0342, ENGL 0310 or 0349

Department Website

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/music-business/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/music-business/>)

Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

Program Student Learning Outcomes (PSLOs)

Can be found at:

<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/music-business/> (<https://www.hccs.edu/programs/areas-of-study/art--design/music-business/>)

Upon completion of MUSC 1270, the student will be able to:

1. Define, compare, and contrast contemporary music in a variety of popular music genres.
2. Interpret written music and chord charts in regard 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 performers, engineers and producers in the music industry

Departmental Practices and Procedures

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.

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 and Resources

Instructional Materials

The [HCC Online Bookstore \(https://hccs.bncollege.com/shop/hccs-central/page/find-textbooks\)](https://hccs.bncollege.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.

Add Instructional Materials Here

Temporary Free Access to E-Book

Here is the link to get temporary free access to a digital version of the text for fourteen days:

<< [add link] >>

Other Instructional Resources

Courseware

Content here...

Course Requirements

Assignments, Exams, and Activities

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Listening Assignments/Presentations	20		Each student will give presentations on two recorded songs for the class to listen to, analyze, and discuss. Presentations will be assigned weekly throughout the semester. The two listening assignments will be 20% of your overall grade and is your midterm.
Quizzes	20		There will be many quizzes (all open note) given during the semester. They will count towards your Quiz grade which is 20% of your overall grad
Assignments	20		There will be many assignments given during the semester. They will count towards your Assignments grade which is 20% of your overall grade. I don't assign a lot of assignments so be sure you complete all of what is assigned.
Class Participation	30		Class Participation is crucial to this course. Missing class will count against your participation grade. Your daily participation will be graded in three areas: Class discussions, ensemble participation, and recording participation. Class Participation will be 30% of your overall grade. THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THIS CLASS, BE SURE YOU ARE ALWAYS ENGAGED

Type	Weight	Topic	Notes
Final Exam			There will be an open note final exam covering the material presented in this course. It will count towards 10% of your final grade. Students who are absent from the final exam without discussing their absence with the instructor in advance or within 24 hours afterward will receive a course grade of Incomplete. Any student who does not take a makeup exam by the end of the following long semester will receive a final exam grade of zero and a course grade of F

Grading Formula

Grade	Range	Notes
A	90-100	
B	80-89	
C	70-79	
D	60-69	
F	0-60	

* Instructor's Practices and Procedures

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

There are no make up assignments in this course.

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

Students are expected to attend all lecture classes and labs regularly. Students are also responsible for materials covered during their absences. Instructors may be willing to consult with students for make-up assignments, but it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor. Class attendance is monitored daily. Although it is the student's responsibility to drop a course for nonattendance, the instructor has the authority to drop a student for excessive absences. A student may be dropped from a course after accumulating absences in excess of 12.5 percent of the total hours of instruction.

Student Conduct

Everyone must be respectful of the classroom environment. Never touch another student's instruments or belongings without first asking permission. Be respectful of the studio rules. Destructive and otherwise bad behavior will not be tolerated.

Instructor's Course-Specific Information

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Devices

Electronic devices for taking notes and listening assignments are welcome. All devices must be shut off for the final exam. All lectures are considered intellectual property of the professor and may only be used for education purposes.

Faculty Statement about Student Success

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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

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HCC Policies and Information

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
F	Failing (59 and below)	0
FX	Failing due to non-attendance	0
W	Withdrawn	0
I	Incomplete	0
AUD	Audit	0

Grade	Grade Interpretation	Grade Points
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>)

<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 EGLS³ ([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. EGLS³ 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 \(https://library.hccs.edu/\)](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/ \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/supplemental-instruction/\)](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/ \(https://www.hccs.edu/support-services/counseling/hcc-cares/basic-needs-resources/\)](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)

COVID-19

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

[https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/ \(https://www.hccs.edu/resources-for/current-students/communicable-diseases/\)](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

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.

Additional Information

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 / 713.718.6523