

MUSC 1331 – MIDI I

Audio Recording Program / Northwest College

CRN 62733– Fall 2013

Spring Branch Campus – PAC Rm#418 | Sunday 2-6PM

3 Semester Credit Hours (2 Hour Lecture, 2 Hour Lab course/ 96 Contact Hours per semester / 16 weeks

Instructor: Dr. Joseph Patrick, joseph.patrick@hccs.edu

Office Hours: By appointment

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. Students are required to attend additional lab hours outside of class.

Prerequisites None

Course Goal

Have audio engineering students begin to explore and conceptualize the world of the modern recording studio.

Instructional Methods

MUSC 1331 is a required course for all audio recording majors.

The class will be comprised of a variety of instructional methods including lectures, class discussions, computer-based lab assignments, and hands-on demonstrations.

As a student wanting to learn about the field of audio recording and synthesis, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments in a timely fashion, study for exams, participate in classroom activities, and attend class.

Important Dates

Final Exam: December 15, During Class Hours

Midterm Exam: October 20 (subject to change)

Drop Deadline: November 1, 4:30PM

No Class: December 1 (Thanksgiving Break)

Student Assignments

Students will be required to complete the following during the semester:

In-class Quizzes

Quizzes may be given during any class. These quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, or short answer questions. Students will have ten to fifteen minutes of class to complete each quiz. Students missing a quiz will not be allowed to make-up it up. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Midterm & Final Exams

These exams will be comprehensive in nature. The final exam will also include a hands-on practical portion.

This practical section must be satisfactorily completed in order to pass the final exam.

Project 1

Project 1 is a sequence due by mid-semester.

Project 2

Project 2 will involve all the skills learned during the class, including sequencing, basic sound creation, and project presentation. ***THERE ARE NO EXTENTIONS FOR PROJECT 2.***

Assessments

Your final grade will be based on the following proportions:

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|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Assignments, Labs, and Quizzes- 35% | 2. Midterm - 15% | 3. Final - 20% |
| 4. Project 1 - 10% | 5. Project 2 - 15% | 6. Attendance - 5% |

Make-up and Late Policy

All assignments, labs, projects, and any other material that is to be turned into the instructor are due at the **beginning of class**. Anything turned in after class starts is considered late. The following deductions will be made to your grades.

Assignments: 10%

Labs: 15%

Project 1: 20%

Any material not turned in by the next class period will not be accepted.

Occasionally, things do happen which prevents work from being completed. For this reason, you will be allowed one "free day" for use on an assignment or lab. This free day is a grace period where you may turn in something by the next class period without penalty. In order to use this "free day", you will need to email the instructor before the assignment is due and state your desire to use said privilege. Because of this free day, extensions will not be granted on any lab or project except in extreme circumstances. **Note: Project 2 and quizzes do not qualify for use with the "free day."**

The decision to administer a make-up exam is solely at the discretion of the instructor, and extremely rare. 'Incomplete' final grades are only appropriate if unusual conditions cause a student to miss one or two major assignments or tests. An 'Incomplete' may only given if the student and the instructor discuss and agree to this option. The student is responsible for obtaining and finishing the missing work by the next regular semester

HCC Grading Scale

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

Instructional Materials

MIDI Power by Robert Guerin (ISBN: 978-1598630848)

Instructor Requirements

Pocket USB Drive (4 GB minimum)

CD-Rs

Headphones

Jewel cases or pre-fabricated paper sleeves for CD-Rs.

Permanent marker (for labeling CDs)

Paper and writing utensil (pencil preferred)

Instructor Policies

The use of any electronic device (i.e, cell phones, laptop computers, music playback devices) without prior *written* permission from the instructor is strictly prohibited. Students in violation of this policy will be counted absent for a first offense. Further violations could lead to removal from the course and referral to the Dean for further action.

When the instructor is lecturing, students are to not use the school-provided computers. This is distracting both to the lecturer and to your fellow classmates who are attempting to listen and take notes. Students found in violation of this policy will be marked as absent and possibly dismissed from the remainder of class. Habitual violators will be removed from the class and referred to the Audio Department Chair and/or Dean.

Students are responsible for knowing the content of this syllabus as well as important dates set in the HCCS Academic Calendar.

Program/Discipline Requirements

None for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

1. Summarize the history and evolution of MIDI.
2. Apply and use MIDI system devices.
3. Utilize software-based sequencing programs.

Learning Objectives

Student will:

- 1.1 Explain the technological limitations MIDI was developed to overcome.
- 1.2 Describe and identify MIDI ports, signal flow and connections.
- 1.3 Describe monophonic, polyphonic and multi-timbral sound synthesis.
- 1.4 Identify common features found on sound synthesizers.
- 1.5 Compare and contrast common methods used to synthesize sound.

- 2.1 Define the basic properties of a sound wave.
- 2.2 Define the relationship between pitch and frequency
- 2.3 Define the relationship between timbre and waveform
- 2.4 Demonstrate the use of the common building blocks of sound synthesis including VCA, DCA, VCO, DCO, and LFO.
- 2.5 Demonstrate an ability to program the general sections of a modern digital synthesizer (global functions, performance functions, multi-timbral functions, controller functions).
- 2.6 Demonstrate the ability to record, edit, save and transmit system exclusive data used by a MIDI synthesizer
- 2.7 Demonstrate the proper use of MIDI channels
- 2.8 Demonstrate an ability to detect and describe the relative pitch, partial content and envelope of a sound.
- 2.9 Manipulate common modifiers used in the synthesis of sound waves.

- 3.1 Identify and define terminology associated with the synthesis of sound, MIDI, sequencing programs and Macintosh computers.
- 3.2 Demonstrate proper use of terminology associated with the synthesis of sound, MIDI, sequencing programs and Macintosh computers.
- 3.3 Demonstrate the ability to create and modify a sequence file template with appropriate tracks, track assignments and transport track and edit windows.
- 3.4 Demonstrate the ability to record and modify MIDI events using a computer sequencer program.
- 3.5 Demonstrate the ability to play back and rearrange MIDI information recorded to a computer sequence program

SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement

None for this course.

HCC Policy Statement – ADA

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 is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Class Attendance

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 12.5% hours of instruction. This includes any class time missed or for excessive tardiness or leaving 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.

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.

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)

Evaluation for Greater Learning Student Survey System

At Houston Community College, professors believe that thoughtful student feedback is necessary to improve teaching and learning. During a designated time, you will be asked to answer a short online survey of research-based questions related to instruction. The anonymous results of the survey will be made available to your professors and division chairs for continual improvement of instruction. Look for the survey as part of the Houston Community College Student System online near the end of the term.

Policy Regarding Lab Usage

Any student found disconnecting, reconfiguring, or otherwise modifying any of the computer stations (including certain software settings & configurations) in PAC418 will automatically fail this class. If there is an issue, you ***MUST*** inform a lab aide or your instructor, even if you think you know the solution.

This syllabus is subject to change at the sole discretion of the instructor.