



## Center of Excellence Media Arts & Technology

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### **MUSC 1335 – Commercial Music Software**

CRN 13386 – Fall 2016

Spring Branch Campus - Room PSPBR Room #704 | 6:00pm - 9:00 pm | Mon/Wed  
2 Hour lecture and 4 Hour Lab Course / 112 Contact Hours / 16 weeks

**Instructor:** Melvin Mays, (713) 718-5441, [melvin.mays@hccs.edu](mailto:melvin.mays@hccs.edu)

**Learning Web Page:** <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/melvin.mays>

**Office Hours:** I can be contacted @ [melvin.mays@hccs.edu](mailto:melvin.mays@hccs.edu) or 713-718-5441

#### **Course Description**

Specialized training in commercial music software applications.

#### **Course Goal:**

Introduction to the principals of digital audio and video in media.

#### **Prerequisites**

None. This course requires no previous knowledge or skills in audio recording, music, sound reinforcement or computers.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 1. Understand the basics of Apple and PC computer systems**
  - a. Describe typical file management and data backup strategies
  - b. Understand commonalities between Mac OS and Windows operating system
  - c. Describe basic troubleshooting and recovery features of each system
  
- 2. Describe the basic components of a computer**
  - a. Understand the basic parameters of components such as hard drives, processors, sound cards, and RAM
  - b. Describe how these parameters affect the quality and speed of a computer system
  - c. Describe typical system requirements for various professional software packages in order to determine compatibility
  
- 3. Describe waveform properties**

- a. Demonstrate how to graph various properties of a sound wave including frequency, amplitude, phase, and harmonic content.
- b. Describe the basic characteristics of sound waves: frequency, amplitude, harmonic content, velocity, wavelength, phase, and envelope.
- c. Understand various amplitude-related concepts such as dynamic range, noise floor, signal-to-noise-ratio, and headroom.

#### **4. DAWs**

- a. Describe the basic characteristics of major DAW packages such as ProTools, Digital Performer, Reaper and Logic Pro
- b. Demonstrate Basic editing processes such as cutting, pasting, cross-fading and arranging of audio files
- c. Understand how to integrate plug-ins, virtual instruments, and sample libraries into DAW systems

#### **5. Discuss various career paths open in digital audio**

- a. Describe the various careers available in digital audio and audio engineering in markets such as music production, radio and television broadcast, live event production, animation, film, and video game development.
- b. Discuss the relative job markets and pay scales of various audio engineering career paths.

#### **6. Understand basic factors of digital audio and video codecs**

- a. Understand the impact of data compression on a file
- b. Describe basic attributes of an A/D circuit such as sample rate and bit depth
- c. Know the basic audio and video file formats used professionally and commercially
- d. Explain how files are rendered and transcoded between codecs

#### **7. Describe various types of digital media used in audio-visual applications**

- a. Describe technical aspects of optical, magnetic, and solid state media
- b. Understand typical consumer formats for audio and video media delivery
- c. Describe the various standard transfer protocols used to physically transmit digital data in a system such as USB, Firewire, SPDIF, and MIDI

#### **SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement:**

The following workplace competencies and foundation skills have been designed into this courses curriculum:

- Participate as a team member
- Works with diversity
- Selects technology
- Reading

### **16 WEEK CALENDAR**

<b>8/22</b>	<b>First Day of Class</b>
<b>9/5</b>	<b>Labor Day Holiday</b>
<b>10/17 – 10-/21</b>	<b>Midterm Week</b>
<b>10/28</b>	<b>Last Day to withdrawal from class</b>
<b>11/23</b>	<b>No Night Classes before Thanksgiving</b>
<b>11/24-11/27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b>
<b>11/30</b>	<b>Last Day of Class</b>
<b>Finals Week</b>	<b>12/5 - 12/8</b>
<b>12/5</b>	<b>Hands on and Written Final</b>

\*Above is an overview and subject to change.

### **16 WEEK CALENDAR**

WEEK ONE: Class Overview / DAW's & Careers  
WEEK TWO: Basic Sound waves & Editing / Critical Listening  
WEEK THREE: Music Production / Time & Frequency  
WEEK FOUR: EQ & Mixing / Dynamics Processing  
WEEK FIVE: Vocal Compiling / Radio Careers & Spot  
WEEK SIX: Radio Spot Lab  
WEEK SEVEN: Hearing & ADR / Microphones  
WEEK EIGHT: Review for midterm / MIDTERM EXAM  
WEEK NINE: Kung Fu Lab  
WEEK TEN: Basic Acoustics  
WEEK ELEVEN: Home Studio Setup  
WEEK TWELVE: Telefunken in class Mix  
WEEK THIRTEEN: Visual Mixing / Lab  
WEEK FOURTEEN: 2<sup>nd</sup> Telefunken in class mix  
WEEK FIFTEEN: Video Game Lab  
WEEK SIXTEEN: Final Hands on Exam and Final Written Exam

\*Above is an overview and subject to change\*

#### **Instructional Methods:**

MUSC 1427 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, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments in a timely fashion, study for exams, participate in classroom activities, and attend class.

#### **Student Assignments:**

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

Lab Requirements

**This course requires the student to complete on hands labs out side of class time.**

In-class Quizzes:

Pop quizzes will be giving. These quizzes will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, short answer questions and attendance. Students arriving after the quiz has been completed will not be allowed to make-up the quiz for that day.

Midterm Exam:

The test will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

Final Exam:

The test will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

**Assessments:**

Attendance	10%
Midterm Exam / Hands On	25%
Skills / Quizzes	10%
Labs	30%
Final Exam / Hands On	25%

**Instructional Materials:**

Modern Recording Techniques 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, by Huber & Runstein  
 USB Drive 4GB  
 Headphones with 1/8" adapter if needed.  
 Blank CDR (needed for end of semester)

**HCC Policy Statements**

Access Student Services Policies on their Web site:

<http://central.hccs.edu/students/student-handbook/>

**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 Med, LPC– 713.718.5667 (officed at Spring Branch)  
 Dr. LaRonda Ashford Ed.D – 713.718.5408 (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)

### **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, At the instructor's discretion, students may be dropped if they do not attend 87.5% of the classes or labs. 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.

**Instructor Requirements:**

**This course requires the student to complete on hands labs out side of class time.**

**Program/Discipline Requirements:**

None for this course.

**HCC Grading Scale:**

90 - 100 = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

Below 60 = F

**EGLS3: (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.

**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](http://www.edurisksolutions.org). Sign in using your HCC student e-mail account, then go to the button at the top right that says **Login** and enter your student number.