

Syllabus for
MUS 320 Songwriting and Arranging
2.0 Credit Hours
Spring 2024

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Music Production Technology introduces students to the concepts of recording, sequencing, and mixing music using computer-based Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs). Topics covered include digital audio and MIDI theory, DAW signal flow and system requirements, MIDI sequencing, stereo mixing techniques, and the use of software-based virtual instruments and effects processors such as equalizers, compressors, and reverb. Students receive hands-on practice in digital music production in a state-of-the-art production lab.

Prerequisites: MUS 100, MUS 105 or MUS 106

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After completing this course successfully, students will be able to:

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the art and craft of songwriting. Students will learn the essential elements of songwriting, including melody, harmony, lyrics, and form. Through a combination of lectures, in-class exercises, and songwriting assignments, students will explore the fundamentals of song structure, develop their creative writing skills, and learn to express their ideas and emotions through song.

The course will cover the following topics:

- A. Song Structure: Students will learn about the different elements that make up a song, including verse, chorus, bridge, and other variations, and how to create a structure that works for their songs.
- B. Melody and Harmony: Students will explore the basic principles of melody and harmony, including scales, chords, and chord progressions, and learn how to create a strong melody that fits with their lyrics.
- C. Lyric Writing: Students will learn the fundamentals of lyric writing, including rhyme, meter, and imagery, and how to craft lyrics that convey a clear message or emotion.
- D. Collaboration: Students will work in small groups to develop their collaborative songwriting skills and learn how to give and receive constructive feedback on their work.
- E. Song Analysis: Students will analyze a range of songs from different genres to understand the techniques used by successful songwriters, and how to apply those techniques to their own writing.

By the end of the course, students will have a basic understanding of the songwriting process and be able to write their own songs, incorporating the essential elements of melody, harmony, lyrics, and form. They will also have developed their creative and critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to communicate their ideas and emotions through song.

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the following program: Music Production.

- A. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully use modern Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software to assemble and complete professional music recordings.
- B. The student will successfully apply an understanding of concepts and techniques that can be applied within various DAW software platforms.
- C. The student will be able to discuss the state of contemporary music production and the field of live sound.
- D. The student will demonstrate proficiency on at least one primary instrument.

- E. The student will demonstrate the ability to assemble and successfully operate a live sound system for a public event.
- F. Student will be able to navigate Logic Pro.
- G. Student will demonstrate working knowledge of acoustics, microphone placement in recording & live situations for a variety of instruments.
- H. Student will be able to follow the signal flow of a live sound mixer station.

IV. UNIVERSITY OUTCOMES

This course aligns with the following University Outcomes as indicated on the last page

- A. Spiritual Integrity
- B. Personal Resilience
- C. Intellectual Pursuit
- D. Global Engagement
- E. Bold Vision

V. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

- A. Pop Music Theory by Michael Johnson 2nd edition
- B. Logic Pro Software by Apple

VI. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. Department Policies and Procedures: See Music Student Handbook
- B. Course Policies and Procedures
 1. The final grade in this course will be determined by a student's overall mastery of the subject matter, as evidenced by exams, quizzes, oral presentations, homework assignments, consistent attendance, and quality class participation. There will be one mid-term exam, one final exam, two studio/lab projects, and weekly assignments.
 2. Criteria for Evaluation: Attendance and participation
 - a. consistent attendance, students more than two minutes late are considered absent**
 - b. quality classroom responses
 - c. overall contribution to in-class discussion and demonstrations
 - d. avoid distractions such as electronic devices, food, and other objects being brought to class
 3. Artistic participation, including singing, drawing, lyric writing, playing instruments, and music writing, will be required from students. Students will be asked to learn the logistics of musical and technological equipment. Students may need to store, move, and set up instruments, audio equipment, and musical equipment. Students will need to understand note reading and basic Logic pro techniques and will be required to continue developing these techniques in the course.
 4. Please refrain from distractions from electronic devices, including phones, apps, and websites. Please be respectful to all staff, faculty, classmates, guests, equipment, and facilities. The instructor reserves the right to ask anyone to leave the classroom for inappropriate or distracting behavior.
 5. Late work does not have to be accepted by the instructor.
 6. Students more than two minutes late to class will be counted as absent.
 7. All students are required to attend the Music Production and Worship lab performances held on campus. This is a part of their attendance grade.

Evaluation/Assessment of Competencies

- Attendance 20%
- Quizzes 20%
- Projects 20%
- Mid-terms 20%
- Finals 20%

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1

Define The Parts of a Song
Discuss/Demonstrate Intro, Verse, Pre-Chorus, Chorus, Bridge, Outro
Discuss/Demonstrate Song Forms
Logic Pro Video lesson 1
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 1
Assignment: Define the parts of a song Quiz
Assignment: Week 1 Pop Music Theory Quiz
Assignment: Week 1 Analyze Music

Week 2

Introduction to writing Vocals/Lyrics
Introduce Mid-Term Project (You will write a song including lyrics and instrumentation)
Discuss/Demonstrate Theme, Genre, Inspiration
Discuss/Demonstrate The Story: Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How
Outside of class, watch the Video on treble clef piano keyboard
Logic Pro Video lesson 2
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 2
Assignment: Understanding W, W, W, W, W, and H Project
Assignment: Week 2 Pop Music Theory Quiz
Assignment: Week 2 Analyze Music
Introduce Short Instrumental Project 1

Week 3

Brief Review project #1 instructions and introduce using Logic Pro
Discuss/Demonstrate Writing Verse 1, 2, 3, 4
Discuss/Demonstrate Chorus, Bridge,
Discuss/Demonstrate Intro and Outro
Outside of class, watch the Video on how to read Bass clef music
Logic Pro Video lesson 3
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 3
Assignment: Week 3 Pop Music Theory Quiz
Assignment: Week 3 Analyze Music
Assignment: Write Lyrics to your Mid Term Project song, Rough Draft 1
Assignment: Short Instrumental Project 1 due Logic Pro

Week 4

Discuss/Demonstrate Chord Progressions
Discuss/Demonstrate I - V - vi - VI
Discuss/Demonstrate 12 Bar Blues
Outside of class, watch the Video on Bass clef piano keyboard
Logic Pro Video lesson 4
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 4

Assignment: Write out the Chord progression for Mid Term Project

Assignment: 12 Bar Blues project In Logic Pro

Assignment: Week 4 Analyze Music

Assignment: Write Lyrics to your Mid Term Project song, Rough Draft 2

Week 5

Chord Progressions Discussion continued

Discuss/Demonstrate 7th chords in Song Writing

Discuss/Demonstrate Major and Minor Key Signatures

Discuss/Demonstrate Church Modes

Logic Pro Video Lesson over starting a session

Logic Pro Video Lesson 1

Outside of class, watch the Video on Major Key and Minor Key Signatures

Logic Pro Video lesson 5

Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 5

Assignment: Major Key Signature quiz

Assignment: Church Modes and 7th Chords Quiz

Assignment: Week 5 Analyze Music

Assignment: Write out Chord Progression for Mid-Term Project

Week 6

Discuss/Demonstrate Composing Melodies

Discuss/Demonstrate The Elements of Melody, Composing a Motive

Discuss/Demonstrate Building a Phrase, Melodic Contour of Phrases

Discuss/Demonstrate Putting Together The Song

Discuss/Demonstrate Harmonizing A Melody

Discuss/Demonstrate Writing a Melody to a Chord Progression

Logic Pro Video lesson 6

Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 6

Assignment: Week 6 Analyze Music

Assignment: Write out Melody draft for Mid-Term Project

Week 7

Discuss/Demonstrate Elements of music and its Variety

Discuss/Demonstrate Dynamics, Articulation

Work on Mid-Term Project during class in Computer Lab

Logic Pro Video lesson 7

Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 7

Assignment: Week 7 Analyze Music

Assignment: Submit Finished Song for Mid-Term Project

Week 8

Work on Mid-Term Project during class in Computer Lab

Logic Pro Video lesson 8

Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 8

Assignment: Week 8 Analyze Music

Assignment: Outline of Final Project

Week 9

Go over Project #2 (Final Project)

Discuss/Demonstrate Bass Line
Work on the Final Project during class in Computer Lab
Logic Pro Video lesson 9
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 9
Assignment: Week 9 Analyze Music
Assignment: Final project through-composed

Week 10

Discuss/Demonstrate Instrumentation, Drums/Percussion
Discuss/Demonstrate Tempo, Time Signatures
Work on the Final Project during class in Computer Lab
Logic Pro Video lesson 10
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 10
Assignment: Week 10 Analyze Music
Assignment: show work towards Final Project

Week 11

Work on the Final Project during class in Computer Lab
Logic Pro Video lesson 11
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 11
Assignment: Project #2 Rough Draft 1 due (AKA) Final Project
Assignment: Week 11 Analyze Music
Assignment: Present Projects in Class and give peer review

Week 12

Mixing and Mastering for streaming
Logic Pro Video lesson 12
Assignment: Logic Pro Video Lesson Quiz 12
Assignment: Project #2 Rough Draft 2 due (AKA) Final Project
Assignment: Week 12 Analyze Music
Assignment: Present Projects in Class and give peer review

Week 13

Review for Final
Assignment: Project #2 due (AKA) Final Project
Assignment: Present Projects in Class and give peer review

Week 14

Review for Final
Assignment: Present Projects in Class and give peer review

Week 15

Final Exam
Play Final Project during Final

Program Outcome Alignment: MUSIC PRODUCTION

This program contributes to the University outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

No Contribution – Does not address the outcome.

Program Outcome alignment with University Outcomes		Significant	Moderate	Minimal	None
Spiritual Integrity					
Outcome 1	Students will apply a Biblical and Christian Worldview when creating, performing, teaching, worshiping, and analyzing a variety of styles of music.	X			
Personal Resilience					
Outcome 2	Students will demonstrate active engagement and self-motivation in the preparation for recitals, classroom teaching, worship sets, research, audio projects, and presentations in music.	X			
Intellectual Pursuit					
Outcome 3 NASM 8.B.2.a-b	Students will develop the technical performance skills for artistic expression in at least one major performance area at a level appropriate for the major or concentration.	X			
Outcome 4 NASM 8.B.1.c	Students will develop ability to create and write music using a digital audio interface.	X			
Outcome 5 NASM 8.B.2.a	Students will develop aural skills to identify intervals, melodic structures, chord qualities, and harmonic progressions.	X			
Outcome 6 NASM 8.B.2.a	Students will demonstrate an understanding of the theory, harmonic progressions, and forms of a variety of styles of music when studying, listening, performing, and teaching music.	X			
Outcome 7	Students will record and engineer a final mix of a music composition or arrangement for distribution or presentation.	X			
Global Engagement					
Outcome 8	Students will engage and analyze music from a wide variety of musical periods including Western and non-Western musical traditions (and worship).	X			
Bold Vision					
Outcome 9 NASM 8.B.1.f	Students will demonstrate vision, leadership, and artistry in performance through expression in phrasing, dynamics, articulations, and accepted practice for musical works in a variety of settings including the stage, classroom, therapeutic settings, and worship services.	X			