MU 115:QL Computer Music I Online
Fall 2013 Syllabus

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Office: HC 238 // Office Hours: T, TH 10:45 AM-12:30 PM, and by appointment

Purpose
This course is an introduction to music technologies including software applications and hardware components used in the performance, teaching, and business of music. Topics include basic computer skills, properties of sound and data, MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) structures, digital sequencing, multimedia applications, an introduction to audio mixing and recording, and careers in music technology. Students are introduced to many software programs and work closely with GarageBand or MixCraft. Software and hardware are introduced and explored through various creative projects. Quantitative concepts to be addressed in the class include digital sampling, binary computation, properties of waveforms, graphical notation, and audio sequencing.

Online Course Information
Taking an online course can be a very different experience from a traditional course. Students are required to be independently responsible for understanding the schedule, completing assignments on time, communicating with the teacher if they have questions, and managing their own learning. As the teacher, I will provide information and instruction, structure activities to assist you in your learning, and be available to assist you.

Technical Requirements. To complete this course successfully, you are required to have access to a computer (not an iPad or a Smartphone only) with a good Internet connection. Those who do not have sufficient access to a computer, or a fast enough connection, will become quickly frustrated and find it difficult to complete the course. You can go to www.speedtest.net to learn your Internet download and upload speeds. Download speeds of at least 8 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 1 Mbps should be sufficient. Internet connections are notorious for failing 5 minutes before an assignment is due. Plan ahead and be prepared. These excuses will not be accepted.

Technical Support: As the teacher of the course, I am not responsible for providing technical support. If you are experiencing difficulty with your UAB Internet connection or Blackboard Learn, contact the UAB AskIT help desk at www.ask.it.uab.edu.

The 24-hour Rule. It should be remembered that while online communications travel at the speed of light, a sent email or posted comment does not necessarily constitute communication. Communication must be sent and received. This is true for communication from teacher to students as well as from students to teacher. The 24-hour rule should be observed, meaning one should allow 24 hours for receipt of a message. Whenever possible, it is also appropriate to reply to the sender confirming receipt of a message.

Appropriate Online Etiquette. Students should participate professionally and appropriately in the online environment. Negative, derogatory, or crude comments will not be tolerated in emails and discussion posts.

Requirements
1. Regular Class Participation. Students are expected to participate actively in the online community. This means responding to discussion board posts, answering emails in a timely manner and keeping up with deadlines.
2. All assigned work must be completed on time. Work that is turned in late will receive a reduced grade that is no greater than half the possible points for the assignment. Additionally, all assignments must be completed by the end of the semester to pass the course.
3. Projects. Student will complete several projects during the semester. These will be turned in on the Blackboard discussions page. Complete instructions for each project can be found on the blackboard site.

Assignments
1. Nano-Projects (5) 10 points each
2. Discussions (5) 10 points each
3. Quizzes (4) 50 points each
4. Projects (3) 100 points each
5. Final Project and presentation (1) 200 points

TOTAL: 800 points

Required Materials

Headphones: Good headphones with both a quarter and eighth inch plug. These should be used when creating projects on the computer and when working in the lab.

Software: If you have access to the UAB Music Tech Lab in HC 317, you will not need to purchase any software. However, if you are unable to get to UAB to use the lab, you must purchase a notation software title (Sibelius is recommended, but Finale will work) and a simple sequencing software title (GarageBand for Mac and MixCraft 5 for PC).

Hardware: You will be required to have a portable flash drive or memory stick if you do your work in the HC 317 Music Tech Lab. Projects should be saved to your drive when you leave the lab. Items left on the lab computers may be deleted without notice.

Texts

ISBN: 978-0-415-99729-4

ISBN: 978-0-199-83768-7

Collaborate

Each Thursday morning at 8:30 am there will be a 30-min live classroom session broadcast via Blackboard’s Collaborate service. This can be accessed through the “Computer Music TV” tab in blackboard. This session will give students a chance to ask questions and allow the teacher to present information. Attendance and participation in these sessions is optional, but is highly recommended. The sessions will be recorded and archived for students who are not able to attend live.

Music Technology Lab (HC317)

While this is an online class, students will have access to HC317 when it is not in use by another class. Students will receive a door access code from the Music Department front office at the beginning of the semester. There is no food or drink allowed in the lab at any time. Violators may lose their lab privileges. Students should save all work to their portable flash drive. Students may also save work to a cloud dropbox.

Alert System (EAS)

EAS is designed to help students be more successful academically at UAB. If you receive an email with EAS in the title, please open it, read it and take advantage of the support that UAB offers to all students. UAB is committed to ensuring that students receive academic support and are aware of the resources available that will help assist them in successfully completing their degree program.

Students with Disabilities:

It is the policy of UAB to afford equal opportunity in education to qualified students. If you have a disability that may prevent you from meeting course requirements, contact the office of Disability Support Services (campus phone 934-4205). This office is located in Hill University Center. You must have a Classroom Accommodation Request letter provided by that office in order to receive accommodations in this class. Course requirements will not be waived but reasonable accommodations will be developed to assist you. You are expected to work with the instructor and the office of Disability Support Services to develop and implement a reasonable plan.

Academic Honesty:

Cheating and plagiarism are perhaps the most serious infringements of the principles of academic honesty. Those caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing written assignments will receive an automatic “0” grade in the course and will be immediately reported to the Dean of Students for further action.
Schedule of Course Topics, Activities, and Due Dates

Date: Readings and Assignments Due:

Aug 26-31, Week 1: Properties of Sound
Read Hosken Chapters 1-3, Visit the Lab (HC 317)

M, Aug 26  Official first day of class
W, Aug 28  **D1: Introductions Due before Midnight**
Th, Aug 29  Collaborate: 8:30 am: Welcome and answer questions about the class and lab and discuss the properties of sound
F, Aug 30  **NP1: Visit the Lab Due before Midnight**

Sept 2-7, Week 2: Overtones and Spectra
Read Hosken Chapters 3-5, watch recorded lecture, take Quiz 1, Music Tech Search

W, Sept 4  **Quiz 1 (chapters 1-3) Due before midnight**
Th, Sept 5  Collaborate: 8:30 am: Digital Audio
F, Sept 6  **D2: Music Tech Search Due before Midnight**

Sept 9-14, Week 3: DAWs and Looping
Read Hosken Chapters 6-7, watch recorded lectures, take Quiz 2

W, Sept 11  **Quiz 2 (chapter 4-7) Due before midnight**
Th, Sept 12  Collaborate: 8:30 am: Introduce Looping Project
F, Sept 13  **D 3: interview Due before midnight**

Sept 16-21, Week 4: MIDI
Read Hosken Chapters 8-9, watch recorded lectures, looping project

W, Sep 18  **NP 2: Looping Project Due before midnight**
Th, Sep 19  Collaborate: 8:30 am: introduce MIDI projects

Sept 23-28, Week 5: more MIDI
Read Hosken Chapters 10-11, take Quiz 3, watch recorded lectures, MIDI project

W, Sep 25  **Quiz 3 (chapter 8-11) Due before midnight**
Th, Sep 26  Collaborate: 8:30 am: MIDI project help

Sept 30-Oct 5, Week 6: History of Music Technology
Phillips Chapter 1, Watch recorded lectures, Project #1

W, Oct 2  **P 1: MIDI Projects Due before midnight**
Th, Oct 3  Collaborate: 8:30 am: The History of Music Technology

Oct 7-12, Week 7: Careers in Music Technology
Phillips Chapter 2, watch recorded lectures, NP 3

W, Oct 9  **NP 3: “My Career” Due before midnight**
Th, Oct 4  Collaborate: 8:30 am: Preparing for a career in Music Technology
Oct 14-19, Week 8: Starting Your Career
Phillips Chapter 4, watch recorded lectures, take quiz 4

W, Oct 16 Quiz 4 Due before midnight
Th, Oct 17 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Careers options in Music Technology

Oct 21-26, Week 9: Career Options
Phillips Chapters 5-7, watch recorded lectures, Project #2
Th, Oct 24 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Discuss Chapters 5-7

Oct 28-Nov 2, Week 10: Project #2
Phillips Chapters 8-11, watch recorded lectures, Project #2

W, Oct 30 P 2: Term Paper, A Career in Music Technology
Th, Oct 31 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Introduce Sequencing Audio and MIDI

Nov 4-9, Week 11: Sequencing
Watch recorded lectures, work on sequencing projects
Th, Nov 7 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Sequencing Audio with MIDI

Nov 11-16, Week 12: Sequencing Projects
Project #3, CME Concert

W, Nov 13 P 3: Sequencing Projects Due before midnight
Th, Nov 14 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Discuss CME Concert
Sat, Nov 16 NP 4: Attend CME concert, 7:30 pm, Hulsey Recital Hall

Nov 18-23, Week 13: Final Project Contracts
Meet with Dr. Phillips, Decide and begin work on Final Projects, D 4, NP 5

W Nov 20 D 4: Thoughts on the CME Concert, Due before midnight
F, Nov 22 NP 5: Meet with Dr. Phillips/Final Project Contracts Due before midnight

Nov 25-30, Week 14: Thanksgiving Break

Dec 2-6, Week 15: Final Projects
Continue work on Final Projects

W, Nov 28 D 5: Course review and comments Due before midnight
Th, Nov 29 Collaborate: 8:30 am: Final Project help session

Final Exam:
Final Projects to be submitted before midnight, Wednesday Dec 11, 2013
Condensed Due Date Calendar – by date: All assignments are due before midnight

W, Aug 28 D1: Introductions
F, Aug 30 NP1: Visit the Lab
W, Sept 4 Quiz 1 (chapters 1-3)
F, Sept 6 D2: Music Tech Search
W, Sept 11 Quiz 2 (chapter 4-7)
F, Sep 13 D 3: interview
W, Sep 18 NP 2: Looping Project
W, Sep 25 Quiz 3 (chapter 8-11)
W, Oct 2 P 1: MIDI Projects
W, Oct 9 NP 3: “My Career”
W, Oct 16 Quiz 4
W, Oct 30 P 2: Term Paper
W, Nov 13 P 3: Sequencing Projects
Sat, Nov 16 NP 4: Attend CME concert, 7:30 pm, Hulsey Recital Hall
W, Nov 20 D 4: Thoughts on CME concert
F, Nov 22 NP 5: Final Project Contracts
W, Nov 28 D 5: Course review and comments
W, Dec 11, Final Exam

Condensed Due Date Calendar – by category: All assignments are due before midnight

Nano-Projects:
1. F, Aug 30 NP1: Visit the Lab
2. W, Sep 18 NP 2: Looping Project
4. Sat, Nov 16 NP 4: Attend CME concert, 7:30 pm, Hulsey Recital Hall
5. F, Nov 22 NP 5: Final Project Contracts

Discussions:
1. W, Aug 28 D1: Introductions
2. F, Sept 6 D2: Music Tech Search
3. F, Sep 13 D 3: interview
4. W, Nov 20 D 4: Thoughts on CME concert
5. W, Nov 28 D 5: Course review and comments

Quizzes:
1. W, Sept 4 Quiz 1 (chapters 1-3)
2. W, Sept 11 Quiz 2 (chapter 4-7)
3. W, Sep 25 Quiz 3 (chapter 8-11)
4. W, Oct 16 Quiz 4

Projects:
1. W, Oct 2 P 1: MIDI Projects
2. W, Oct 30 P 2: Term Paper
3. W, Nov 13 P 3: Sequencing Projects

Final:
W, Dec 11, Final Exam