University of North Texas - College of Music

Course Syllabus - Advanced Digital Audio Workstation Techniques

MUAE 3200-001 / MUJS 5900-709

Topic: **MIDI Sequencing and Music Production Using Logic Pro X**

Mon / Wed / Fri - Room 250 Music Building

Instructor: Jeffrey Hepker: Jeffrey.Hepker@unt.edu   Office: MUSI 2010
Office Hours: **tbd (watch for announcement)** or by appointment.
Course Pre-requisites and/or Other Restrictions: Instructor approval.

Course Description: Intermediate through advanced skill development in MIDI sequencing, recording, editing, mixing and audio mastering using the Logic Pro X Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software for Mac.

Required Textbook: Creating Sounds from Scratch: A Practical Guide to Music Synthesis for Producers and Composers.

Note - this link is to the publisher's website. There are copies at the bookstore, and print/digital options available on Amazon and other retailers.

Preferred Names, Preferred Gender Pronouns
This course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If you prefer a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know (via email or in person). Please, feel free to correct us on your preferred gender pronouns either in person or in writing.

Credit Load:
This course carries a 3 hour credit load. Students should expect to spend additional 6 hours each week outside of class preparing. Some weeks will require more time spent working outside of class than others and actual time spent may vary depending on previous experience and knowledge.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate intermediate to advanced proficiency as an engineer in Logic Pro X, knowing the interface, tools and keyboard shortcuts.

- Apply a professional workflow and set of techniques to produce tracks in any genre using software instruments, MIDI, loops and audio.

- Learn to record and edit to movie files in Logic Pro X for scoring and sound designing your own videos.

- Customize Logic's built-in sound library and create original presets to suit your artistic preferences.

- Learn basic synthesis techniques for creating your own sounds from scratch using digital and analog-modeled synthesizers.

- Compile a shareable portfolio of original projects, including composition sketches and several full-length song arrangements.

- Command basic mixing abilities using levels, panning, corrective signal processing(EQ, compression, etc.), creative signal processing (reverb, delay, distortion, modulation) and automation.

- Implement a basic mastering chain on your stereo output for finalizing your tracks to commercial specs.

Teaching Philosophy
You will learn by doing in this course.

- The instructor will present tools and demonstrate their application, then you will practice applying the same techniques to create your own original music.
- Each student will produce something unique for every assignment and project. The instructor will give you information, direction, support and feedback always with the goal of empowering you.

Course Organization

This course will be divided up into a handful of main units each lasting a few weeks. Each unit will have submissions of Logic sessions (or bounces), quizzes, peer reviews, and self reflection. I will meet individually with each student after each unit, where you will provide yourself a grade for that unit and justify it.

I will be finalizing all of the Unit choices after receiving some feedback from the class. Two of them will certainly be:

1 - Understanding and implementing the principles of music synthesis in popular music styles
2 - Creating and editing music and sound design against picture.

Other options will be: multitracking in the UNT music studio, advanced mixing routing and concepts, and using Flex Pitch / Flex Time.

Communicating With Your Instructor
Please check Canvas course announcements and your UNT email daily, as these are the means by which the instructors will contact you with important information, updates and reminders.

Please **use Discussions** in our Canvas course for all communication with the instructors and your classmates, unless your communication content needs to be private.

Please **use email** to contact your instructor and assistant instructor with any private questions, concerns, planned absence consultation or office hours appointments:

- Always address emails to Jeffrey.Hepker@unt.edu
- Always use the Subject: "Logic Pro Spring 23: Your Subject"
- Expect an email response within 24 hours.
- Please do not contact me through canvas e-mail, my personal g-mail or any other outlet.

Format (Canvas-Driven)

Canvas will be the hub for everything in this course. All lab and project assignments will be submitted online via Canvas. All quizzes will be administered online via Canvas.

The lecture material and assignment *might* be given *before* our weekly class-meeting. Our class time will be used for follow-up group work, individual work with instructor support, asking and answering questions and/or sharing drafts of your work with the instructor and your classmates.

Materials

The following materials are all supplied in the Computer Music Lab for working at school when the lab is open. You can also [check out a Mac laptop with Logic Pro installed from the Lab for 24 hours](#) and/or other materials below for your home use during this course. As such you are **not required** to purchase any materials for this class. ***BUT...*** Purchase of the following materials is *recommended* so that you can work on audio projects at home and in the future as a music professional.

Highly Recommended but Not Required:

1. **Mac Computer with Logic Pro X installed**. Although there is no academic discount for Logic Pro X alone ($199), this price is very low for the features included when compared with ProTools, Cubase or any other professional DAW. It is well worth the investment. Before you buy, please consider Apple's [Pro Apps Bundle for Education](#) that includes Logic Pro X plus four other valuable video and live music production apps ($199--same price as Logic by itself!)

2. **Reference headphones** are needed for all audio work. Earbuds and any other headphones you already own are almost assuredly not reference headphones. There are many companies and options, but be sure to choose headphones that *explicitly specify* they have a **flat frequency response for studio reference monitoring**. A popular, affordable option are [Sony MDR 7506](#)

reference headphones. If you have a slightly higher budget, [Beyerdynamic DT 770](#) are my current personal favorite.

Optional:

3. **MIDI keyboard controller**. If you want to input notes and control other Logic Pro parameters not using only your mouse and laptop's keyboard, consider spending $80+ on a [USB MIDI controller.](#)
Compare the features and pick what suits you best. Some have smaller/larger keys. Some work with iOS as well as Mac OS. Some have bundled software or even built-in USB audio interface

4. **Audio recording interface**. This is needed to plug an instrument or external microphone into your computer for recording audio into a Logic session. There are [MANY](#) available options, ranging from inexpensive to very expensive. A few high quality options I can personally recommend:

5. **Microphone (and accessories)**. There are many, MANY microphone options for all budgets. A great mic to start with for studio recording is a [Large-diaphragm condenser microphone](#). I recommend you first set your budget then compare reviews of mics in that budget. https://www.sweetwater.com/

Grading Summary:

This course will focus on qualitative not quantitative assessments, as these are the type of assessments you will receive in the professional world.

You will receive a final grade at the end of the semester, as required by university policy, but I will not be conventionally grading individual assignments. Instead, I will be asking questions and making comments that engage your work (and invite you to do so as well) rather than simply evaluate it. Crucially, this course will stress incorporating that feedback into your subsequent work.

You will be reflecting on your work and that of your peers in a way that supports constant improvement.

I am interested in what success looks like for you in this course and how to help you achieve this goal. Why are you taking this course and what do you hope to gain from it? These questions are important to answer for yourself as will be actively involved in deciding your final grade for this course. Learning to be self-reflective on your work will be important in professional settings. Taking note of feedback and finding ways to incorporate it into your work is an absolute necessity. The intention behind working collaboratively in your grading is to simulate as best we can the relationship between a client and yourself.

How does this work?

You will receive credit/no credit for most assignments. If the assignment is not of a sufficient standard per the rubric or assignment description, you will be allowed to revise or resubmit it, assuming you turned it in on time. *Late work will not have this chance for improvement. Just as late proposals would not be chosen by a client.*

Your final grade will be a combination of your honest self-reflections, peer reviews, peer feedback, and instructor feedback. The instructor reserves the right to change any final grade to one they feel is a more appropriate reflection of the work submitted. The goal is for there to be an alignment of what quality work is and how to create it.

ATTENDANCE, DRAFTS, LATE WORK AND EXTENSION POLICIES:

This is a highly interactive class. There is no replacement for experiences that take place during class time. Attendance is integral to improvement in this area of study. It is also an opportunity to practice professionalism in your work. ***The instructor must be notified in advance of an absence or tardy.***

In the event of an absence, ***students are still responsible for turning in assignments on time*** (unless previous arrangements have been made) and ***staying caught up on what was missed.***

Work more than a week late will not be accepted at all unless prior arrangements have been made ahead of time.

UNT POLICIES AND RESOURCES:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.
See: [Academic Integrity](#)
LINK: https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003

STUDENT BEHAVIOR
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)
Link: https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at [my.unt.edu](my.unt.edu). All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: Eagle Connect

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester.For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](ODA)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

UNT Policy Statement on Diversity

UNT values diversity and individuality as part of advancing ideals of human worth, dignity and academic excellence. Diverse viewpoints enrich open discussion, foster the examination of values and exposure of biases, help educate people in rational conflict resolution and responsive leadership, and prepare us for the complexities of a pluralistic society. As such, UNT is committed to maintaining an open, welcoming atmosphere that attracts qualified students, staff, and faculty from all groups to support their success. UNT does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status in its application and admission process, educational programs and activities, employment policies and use of university facilities.

See: Diversity and Inclusion

Link: https://idea.unt.edu/diversity-inclusion

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness

Registration Information for Students
See: Registration Information
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/students

Academic Calendar, Spring 2023
See: Spring 2023 Academic Calendar
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide

Final Exam Schedule, Spring 2023
See: Spring 2023 Final Exam Schedule
Link: https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered.   Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you to schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

Graduates
A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.
See: Financial Aid
LINK: http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS
Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.
See: FERPA
Link: http://ferpa.unt.edu/

COUNSELING AND TESTING
UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor whose position includes 16 hours per week of dedicated service to students in the College of Music and the College of Visual Arts and Design. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
Link: http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:
See: [Mental Health Issues](https://speakout.unt.edu)
Link: https://speakout.unt.edu.

The counselor for music students is:
Myriam Reynolds
Chestnut Hall, Suite 311
(940) 565-2741
Myriam.reynolds@unt.edu

ADD/DROP POLICY
Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. After the 12th class day, students may drop a class up until the deadline through their my.unt portal. The last day for a student to drop a class in Spring 2023 is April 7. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Instructions: https://registrar.unt.edu/dropping-courses

STUDENT RESOURCES
The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:
See: [Student Resources](https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources)
Link: https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources
(Note: A printer-friendly PDF version is available by clicking the green button on the home page)

CARE TEAM
The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.
See: [Care Team](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team)
Link: https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team