

University of North Texas
College of Music, Division of Jazz Studies
Course Syllabus

Introduction to Digital Audio Workstation Techniques

Topic: **MIDI Sequencing Using Logic Pro X**

MUAE 3100-001 CRE (17900), MUCE 5060-701 CRE (19296)

MUJS 5900-703 SPECIAL PROBLEMS CRE (10477)

RM 322

Fall 2021 — UNT College of Music

Instructor: Robert Trusko, MA robert.trusko@unt.edu

Regular weekly office hours (Zoom meeting ID 274 154 8243)

- Wednesdays 1-3pm
- Individual office hours by appt.

Communicating With Your Instructors

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

- Be sure that you are subscribed to all Canvas discussion forums so you can receive notifications of questions and answers that will help you.

For communication including private content, such as your grades, personal struggles related to the class or individual office hours appointments, please email the instructor at robert.trusko@unt.edu. Expect an email response within 24 hours.

Receiving Announcements From Your Instructors

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.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions: None.

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

Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate intermediate proficiency as an engineer in Logic Pro X, knowing the interface, tools and keyboard shortcuts.
- Apply a professional workflow and 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 lab assignment and project.

The instructor will give you information, direction, support and feedback always with the goal of empowering you.

- For example, if you ask a technical question that is answered online somewhere, the instructor might respond with a link to an external website that troubleshoots your issue, or the instructor might recommend a specific query phrase you can enter into a web search engine to find the answer.
- If you ask a question about the class that is answered in the syllabus, the instructor might respond, "See page 4 of the syllabus."
- The instructor wants to empower you to become self-sufficient and fully ready for continued success after the semester ends!

Format

Fully Online and Canvas-based

- Canvas will be the hub for everything in this course.
- All lectures will be delivered as step-by-step instructional videos accompanied by PDFs.
- All lab and project assignments will be submitted online via Canvas.
- All quizzes will be administered online via Canvas.

Zoom conference office-hour sessions "Flipped" vis-a-vis lecture content

- "Flipped" means that the lecture material and assignment will all be given *before* our Class.
- During Class:
 - The instructor will present and give feedback to submitted student assignments
 - The instructor will answer your questions about material you've already been introduced to from the pre-recorded lecture videos.

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](#) 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.

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, [AKG371 BT](#) are my current personal favorite.

Optional:

3. **MIDI keyboard controller.** If you want to input notes and control other Logic Pro parameters not only using your mouse and laptop's keyboard, consider spending \$80+ on a [USB MIDI controller](#). Some compact examples for those who don't need the range and feel of a piano: [Akai Pro MPK Mini mk II](#), [Novation Launchkey 25](#), [M-Audio Oxygen 25](#), [Arturia MiniLab MkII](#), [IK Multimedia iRig Keys I/O 25](#), others.... 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 capabilities.
3. **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:
 - (least expensive but still high quality) [PreSonus AudioBox USB 96](#) or [PreSonus AudioBox 96 Studio USB 2.0 Hardware/Software Recording Kit](#) (includes reference headphones and a microphone as well)
 - (a little more expensive) [Focusrite Scarlett 2i2](#)
4. **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.
 - If you have a mic, you need a [mic cable](#) (be sure to check the length)
 - You probably need a mic stand: [full-size](#) / [desktop](#)
 - And for recording vocals you'll want a [pop filter](#)



Grading Summary:

36	Lab Exercises (9)
15%	Quizzes (5)
15%	Attendance (15)
12%	Midterm Project
<u>22%</u>	<u>Final Project</u>
100%	Total

Lab exercises are due to Canvas by 11:59 pm Wednesdays. **Late submissions are not accepted without advance request of extension** (see policy below).

Quizzes will be administered via Canvas throughout the semester, covering lecture content, lab techniques and assigned online reading and viewing content. These will be open-note and generally consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.

The **Midterm Project** will be a polished representation of your best MIDI sequencing work for the first half of the semester. See Module 7 for details.

The **Final Project** will be a polished representation of your best MIDI sequencing and audio mixing work for the semester and may include audio tracks and/or video as well. The project will be assigned and completed in 5 parts, each part having specific requirements detailed beginning Module 11. Your final mastered product must be hosted online for streaming that can be accessed via link, but does not need to be public.

LATE WORK POLICY:

- Assignments turned in **on time** will be **graded and will receive instructor feedback during class**.
- **Late** lab and project assignments submitted **without prior approved extension request receive 0 (zero) points** and will not receive instructor feedback.
- To make a **48-hour deadline extension request on Canvas** (*not email*): Enter the text "Extension requested. Reason: [your reason]" to the Canvas assignment submission by Wednesday 11:59pm. All extension requests made after the deadline will be denied. All requests made by the Wednesday 11:59pm deadline are automatically granted an extra 48-hours (until Friday 11:59pm) at the latest to submit your work.

Final Project bonus opportunity

For each lab exercise you submit *on time with no deadline extension*, you will earn bonus points on the Final Project:

- All 9 Labs on time: 13% bonus
- 8 Labs on time: 11% bonus
- 7 Labs on time: 8% bonus
- 6 Labs on time: 6% bonus
- 5 Labs on time: 5% bonus
- 4 Labs on time: 4% bonus
- 3 Labs on time: 3% bonus
- 2 Labs on time: 2% bonus
- 1 Labs on time: 1% bonus

Attendance at all classes is required and necessary to learn the material well. Arrive early because attendance is **taken exactly at the top of the hour**.

Physically being in the room is not enough. To be counted as present you need to participate, fully engaging in all in-class activities. Examples of not participating include: Using your phone; Checking email or doing any non-Pro Tools work on your computer; Talking to your neighbor or staring at the wall instead of working on in-class exercises; Any disruptive or disrespectful behavior.

Your attendance at each class is scored on a 7-point scale:

- 7 pts: **Exactly on-time** and present for the class period (i.e. paying attention during instructor demonstrations and doing Pro Tools work during work time)
- 5 pts: *A little late* and/or not fully present (e.g. not fully paying attention and/or not exclusively doing classwork for this course during work time)
- 3 pts: *Very late* and/or hardly present (e.g. being disruptive and/or spending half of the class doing unrelated work)
- 0 pts: *Absent* or not present (e.g. being repeatedly disruptive and/or spending most of the class doing unrelated work)

ATTENDANCE, LATE WORK AND EXTENSION POLICIES:

Absences are only excused for religious holidays, required performances, family emergencies or student illness. You must get documentation or a doctor's note for an absence to be excused. If you need to be absent for a reason that you are not sure fits into these categories, please let me know and we will discuss if it can be excused.

Zero Late Work: No late work is accepted without advance request of extension. If you are absent (excused or unexcused), your work is still due on time to Canvas. You are always responsible to check Canvas and complete any lab work or quizzes assigned in your absence. Consult the class schedule (pp. 9-10) for all due dates.

Requesting an Extension

Extension requests are completed on Canvas and **not via email**. To request a deadline extension, you must enter the text "Extension requested. Reason: [*your reason*]" to the Canvas assignment submission by Wednesday 11:59pm. All extension requests made after the deadline will be denied. All requests made by the Wednesday 11:59pm deadline will be granted an extra 48-hours until Friday 11:59pm at the latest to submit your work.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING IN THIS CLASS:

If you are struggling for any reason please send me an email. I want to hear what you're experiencing and we will work together to fix it. Depending on your struggle, there might be immediate help from UNT's Office of Disability Accommodation (info and link below) and/or a medical note from a counselor or therapist that will authorize me to accommodate your needs. If your struggle doesn't match either of these, we will work to find another solution.

My life is complicated, as is everyone else's I know, as is yours, I suspect. The goal of this class is to empower you with new knowledge and experience to do things you can't yet do. That means every week we will butt up against challenges you don't yet know how to clear. The schedule and policies in this syllabus are all designed with the purpose of giving you the tools you need to succeed and motivating you to use them to pass each new challenge. Every assignment is designed for your focused practice and palpable improvement. Every deadline is in place to support your pacing. Every grading policy is there to encourage and reward you for working up to your own high standards. I am generally strict about enforcing everything in this syllabus because that strictness **usually helps** my students achieve their goals and they thank me later for the tough love. I say "usually" because I know there are sometimes situations where we need to do things differently to clear the right path for a student to succeed.

We will proceed through new material and assignments with a healthy momentum designed to be manageable and helpful. If for any reason you fall off the train and feel unable to catch up, talk to me right away and we'll get you back on board.

Canvas Technical Assistance

UIT Help Desk: <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Canvas and supported resources. The student help desk may be reached at:

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940.565-2324

Class Schedule (Topic schedule subject to change **with notice**)

★ Check Canvas for ALL course materials, assignment details and quizzes ★		
Module Topics		Assignments
1	Syllabus and course introduction Introduction to MIDI sequencing with Logic Pro X Creating a song with Apple Loops	Quiz 1 (Syllabus) Lab 1 - Apple Loops Sequence
2	Drums part 1 Creating a rhythm track with Logic Pro X's Drummer instrument	Lab 2 - Drum Sequence
3	Drums part 2 Advanced Drummer instrument techniques using Drum Designer, electronic kits and Producer Kits Layering and transforming using aliases of Drummer regions	Lab 3 - Advanced DrumSequence & Quiz 2
4	Bass MIDI programming on software instrument tracksSampled and synthesized bass instruments	Lab 4 - Drums and Bass LineSequence
5	Harmony Pads and rhythmic chordal parts for keys, guitars, horns and strings MIDI inserts	Lab 5 - Drums, Bass and ChordsSequence
6	Melodies Synthesis techniques for sculpting original soundsMIDI automation	Lab 6 - Drums, Bass, Chords &Synth Melody Sequence
7	Mixing and Rough Mastering Mixing workflow, signal processing with audio effects insert plugins, basic mastering chain on the stereo output Midterm Project: 3:00+ complete song with at least 15 tracks, mixed and roughly mastered to specifications	Midterm Project & Quiz 3
8	Digital Audio part 1; Movies Working with movie files in Logic Pro Audio tracks and recording audio with a microphone Loop recording and comping audio takes	Lab 7 - ADR
9	Digital Audio part 2 Recording instruments via mic and line Audio processing and advanced editing, fades	Lab 8 - MIDI and AudioSequence
10	Notation; Importing and Exporting MIDI Files	Lab 9 - Song Sequence and

	Inputting and outputting staff notation with Logic Pro X Importing and exporting MIDI files	Sheet Music from Imported MIDI & Quiz 4
11	Final Project part 1 Create a full song (to assignment specifications)	Final Project part 1
12	Final Project part 2 Add layers, arrange and pre-mix	Final Project part 2
13	Final Project part 3 Corrective processing: EQ, de-essers, gates, compressors and limiters	Final Project part 3
14	Final Project part 4 Creative processing: reverb, delay, bus sends and aux inputs, modulation, distortion	Final Project part 4
15	Final Project part 5 Stereo output mastering chain	Final Project part 5 & Quiz 5 (cumulative) Wed 4/28 11:59pm

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/sites/default/files/06.003.AcadIntegrity.Final_.pdf

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. 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](#)

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 Statement](#)

Link:

https://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/04.018_PolicyStateOnDiversity.pub8_.18.pdf

2020-2021 Semester Academic Schedule (with Add/Drop Dates)

See: [Spring, 2021 Registration Guide](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

Academic Calendar at a Glance, 2020-2021

See: [Academic Calendar](#)

Link: <https://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2020-21/calendar>

Final Exam Schedule

See: [2021 Final Exam Schedule https://registrar.unt.edu/exams/final-exam-schedule/spring](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](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health issues, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Issues](#)

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 must first submit a completed "Request to Drop" form to the Registrar's Office. The last day for a student to drop a class in Spring, 2021 is April 2. Information about add/drop may be found at:

See: [Add Drop](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/spring-registration-guide>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: https://www.unt.edu/sites/default/files/resource_sheet.pdf