

MUS 246 SAMP II Studio Techniques

Syllabus

Portland State University School of Music

Credits: 3

Pre-Requisites: Mus 245

Instructor: Anwyn Willette

Office: 243 D

e-mail: willette@pdx.edu

Location: LH326F Computer Lab

Catalogue Description:

Studio Techniques will provide a foundational study of the concepts and techniques used in commercial music production. This class will introduce multi-track digital audio recording, digital audio editing, digital signal processing, plug-ins, and mixing. Students will learn aspects of MIDI music making, including data entry, editing, mixing and automation. Music notation software will be explored. Students are also introduced to synthesis and sampling instruments as plug-ins.

Organization:

The ten-week course is organized into weekly units each exploring various techniques used in music production. This class will be evenly divided into lecture/demonstration and lab work.

Objectives:

- To understand how to record and edit multi-track digital audio
- To understand at a basic level various sound processing plug-ins
- To introduce MIDI as a tool for composition and sequencing
- To learn how to use effects and automation
- To Introduce synthesis and sampling technology
- To gain foundational skills using music notation software

Learning Outcomes

- Record and Edit multi track audio
- Compose and Edit MIDI
- Synthesize New Instrument Sounds
- Sequence audio and MIDI
- Apply effects processing
- Produce Instrument scores and parts

Topics:

- The Multi-track DAW
- Effects Processing
- Multi-track editing
- MIDI Software and Hardware
- MIDI Sequencing
- MIDI Effects
- Virtual Instruments
- Synthesizers and Samplers
- Music Notation practices

Text:

Modern Recording Techniques 9th Edition by David Miles Huber and Robert E. Runstein. ISBN: 9781138954373 (pbk) (*MRT*)

Weekly Outline:

Week 1: Rhythm I

Students are introduced to the Studio One DAW

- Instrument Tracks and Virtual Instruments Overview
- Impact Instrument
- Note Entry Methods
- Percussion Rudiments
- Programming the rudiments
- File Formats
- File Management

Assignment 1: Rudiments (100 points)

Week 2: Rhythm II

Students will be introduced to various drumming styles

- Drum Style Study
- Impact continued: The Kit
- Track Folder and Layers
- Recording with Layers
- Automation of Impact parameters
- Intro to Mixing Drums
- EQ, Compressors, Limiters,

Assignment 2: 2-minute Percussion composition (100 points)

Week 3: Harmony I

Students will be introduced to crafting harmonic progressions and MIDI Orchestration

- Intro to Formal Structures
- Triads, Seventh Chords, Quartal and Quintal structures
- Implied scales
- Composing Progressions
- MIDI orchestration
- Continuous Controllers and Automation

Assignment 3: Harmonic Progression (100 points)

Week 4: Harmony II

Students will continue the study of crafting harmonic progressions and MIDI editing techniques

- 20th century Harmonic Techniques
- Minimalism
- Pattern generator
- Instrument FX
- Transposition, Quantization, Humanizing, Swing
- Splitting, Merging and Layering Tracks
- Mixing instruments
- Groups
- Bus Channels

Assignment 4: 3-minute minimalist composition (100 points)

Week 5: Melody I

Students will learn to craft melodies

- Melody analysis
- Creative approaches to motivic development
- Harmonically conditioned melodies
- Continuous Controllers and Automation cont.

Assignment 5: Compose a melody for a solo instrument (100 points)

Week 6: Melody II

Students will Learn how to craft melodies cont.

- The Bass as a melodic instrument
- Melody/Bass relationship in two-part textures
- Advanced Sequencing Techniques
- Tempo maps

Assignment 6: Compose a 32-bar duet in binary form. (100 points)

Week 7: Radio Advertisement project

Students will learn production techniques in the service of producing a radio ad.

- Setting the session tempo, changing tempo, setting up tracks
- Punching in and out, Record loop, Stacking

Week 8: Radio Advertisement project cont.

Students will learn Various Production techniques cont.

- Introduction to crafting the mix
- Effects

Assignment 7: Radio Ad (200 points)

Final Project Guidelines

Week 9: Final project I

Students will begin their final composition projects and will be introduced to various tips and tricks used in music production

- Session Planning
- Song Form
- Intros, Verses, Choruses, Bridges and Outros strategies

Week 10: Final project II

Students will continue their final composition projects and studying various tips and tricks used in music production

Assignment 8: Final Project (200 points)

Final Project Presentation During Final Exam time. Absence during the final will result in a failing grade.

Final Exam time: Monday March 18th 10:15-12:05 LH 326

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICIES

Tardiness is not acceptable, since it shows a lack of consideration and is disruptive. Please be considerate and be on time.

Assignments are only accepted at the time they are due. Please check your assignment due dates. All assignments will be submitted via d2l.

Grading of assignments is through a 100-point matrix and are evaluated on both objective and creative merit.

Letter grades will be given according to the following scale.

Calculation of course grade

Grade	Points	Grade	Points
A	950-1000	C+	750-774
A-	900-949	C	700-749
B+	850-899	C-	650-699
B	800-849	D	600-649
B-	775-799	F	0-599

Academic integrity

Academic integrity is critical to maintaining fair, knowledge-based learning at Portland State University. Academic misconduct in any form is a serious violation: it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of our academic community, degrades the value of a degree and puts at risk those who may eventually depend upon our students' knowledge and integrity.

Access and Inclusion for Students with Disabilities

PSU values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to fostering mutual respect and full participation for all students. My goal is to create a learning environment that is equitable, useable, inclusive, and welcoming. If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability that may affect your work in this class and feel you need accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center to schedule an appointment and initiate a conversation about reasonable accommodations. The DRC is located in 116 Smith Memorial Student Union, 503-725-4150, drc@pdx.edu, <https://www.pdx.edu/drc>.