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DAN MITCHELL

MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER, DE ANZA COLLEGE



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Music 8 Syllabus

DAN MITCHELL INFO

Office: A15

Email: mitchelldan@deanza.edu

Social Media: [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Phone: 408.864.8511

Office Hours:

- Mon-Thu 11:30AM-12:20PM

- Also by arrangement

Winter 2015 | 3 units | 12:30-2:20 TTh | Room A91 | Dan Mitchell | Office: A15 | 408-864-8511 | mitchelldan@deanza.edu | Social Media: [deanzadan](#)

Welcome to Intermediate Electronic Music

This syllabus describes official course policies and expectations and is a contract between student and teacher. Other materials on this website, such as those listed in the sidebar, are extensions of the syllabus and also reflect official course policies.

Description

This course focuses on intermediate level electronic music techniques including principles of digital and analog synthesizer sound design and editing; professional studio and computer music software including integrated audio/MIDI sequencing software, instrument editors, software synthesizers; basic audio/MIDI studio configuration; modular synthesis; basic digital audio recording and editing; basic audio signal processing; introduction to concepts of music notation software; historical and technological development of electronic music; roles of electronic music technology in twentieth-century music. Some prior music experience and/or concurrent enrollment in a basic level music course such as *Fundamentals of Music*, *Beginning Keyboards* or similar is *recommended but not required*.

Course Objectives

- Operate keyboard synthesizers, audio mixers, external audio and signal processing equipment, and professional music software for audio recording, sequencing, and signal processing.
- Design and edit sounds using hardware and software synthesis and editing tools.
- Create musical/audio projects using audio/MIDI sequencing software, audio signal processing software and hardware, and mixing hardware and software.
- Understand and use basic features of computer notation software.
- Design, implement, and troubleshoot audio/MIDI equipment and software configurations in a complex studio environment.
- Recognize, analyze, and describe features of several important electronic music periods and genres and their features.

Text and Materials

Text book – *No text is required* at the present time. Some course materials are available within the software that we use and links other web-based materials will be provided in class.

Access to a computer with a printer, web browser, and [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#). You may use the electronic music lab computers for course-related work during your assigned lab time. Free computer access is also available to registered students in the Internet Lab in Learning Center West, and you may use your own computer.

Some assignments must be downloaded from this website and printed. *You must download and print these materials at least 48 hours before they are due and you must contact the instructor immediately if technical problems interfere with this. Problems printing or accessing course materials at the last minute are not an excuse for missing deadlines.*

[Electronic Music](#)

[MUSIC 51: INTRO TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC](#)

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[MUSIC 8: INTERMEDIATE ELECTRONIC MUSIC](#)

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[MUSIC 77: SPECIAL PROJECTS](#)

[ELECTRONIC MUSIC RESOURCES](#)

Personal headphones with 1/8" stereo phone plug (a.k.a. "iPod headphones") or other headphones and appropriate adapter are *required at all class sessions*.

Optional but highly recommended: USB flash memory stick or similar device (e.g. – writable CD/DVD media, external USB drive, etc.) is *strongly recommended but not required* to back up your work and move files between computers. Capacity of 1GB or larger is sufficient.

Course Schedule

In general, you should be able to do all of your lab work during the scheduled class meeting time – but this may only provide time to meet basic assignment requirements. However, additional open lab time may be available after the start of the term. Information will be provided in class.

Studio Rules

All electronic music students are responsible for reading, understanding, *and following* the studio rules This is absolutely critical so that we can maintain open studio access for all students enrolled in this class. Violations of the studio rules may lead to *suspension of access to the studios* and other serious consequences.

- **No unauthorized visitors** are allowed in the lab. Only currently enrolled electronic music students are allowed in the studio. No one else may enter the studio under any circumstances without advance permission from the instructor.
- **No eating or drinking** in the lab. (Water in screw-top containers is allowed, but may not be kept on desks.)
- **Keep the studio neat** – clean up when you finish your session.
- The lab computers are for **electronic music course work only**. Use the Internet Lab in Learning Center West if you want to browse the web or check your email.
- **Shut down your computer** at the end of the period before leaving the room. (Choose "Shut Down" from the Apple Menu at the upper left corner of the screen, and confirm this in the following dialog box.)
- **Cell phones are prohibited during class** – See more about the cell phone policy below.

Grading

Projects – Several short projects (see [Intermediate Electronic Music Assignments](#)) will be assigned during the term. Projects count for 30% of the course grade.

Class Presentation – A 10-15 minute oral presentation on a relevant electronic music subject – due during the final 2-3 weeks of the term. This assignment is described further in the syllabus. The presentation counts for 20% of the course grade. Group projects are possible with instructor permission.

Final Project – This assignment is described further in the [Intermediate Electronic Music Assignments](#) section. It is due at the final exam session. The final project is weighted at 30% of the course grade – *but failure to complete a final project may result in a failing grade for the course*.

Quizzes – There will be between two and six quizzes, some of which may be take-home quizzes. Quizzes count for 10% of the course grade.**

Test – One written test will cover topics from the quizzes and additional topics as announced in class. The test is worth 10% of the course grade.

A weighted average system is used to determine your final course grade—not a point system. Assignment and course grades will use base letter grades A, B, C, D, and F, and the +/- symbols. (There are no C- *course grades* at De Anza College, though a C- may be given for assignments, tests and other course work.)

Let the instructor know immediately if you think you have received an incorrect grade. Grades may not be changed if you wait more than 72 hours after an assignment is handed back or after grades are posted on the web to bring errors to the instructor's attention.

If an emergency interferes with completion of course work near the conclusion of the term *you must contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation*, including the possibility being assigned an "incomplete" grade in the course if appropriate. If you "disappear" at the end of the course you are subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.

During the course you will be able to review your grade progress online on a password-protected web page. More information about this will be provided early in the term.

Attendance

Attendance may be taken at each class session. You are subject to being dropped from the class for excessive absences or tardies. However, there is no guarantee that you will automatically be dropped if you stop attending without notifying the instructor. You must contact the instructor immediately if you miss a class or if you decide to drop.

The actual number of missed or late classes that may cause you to be dropped varies depending upon how many days the class meets each week. For a two day per week class, you are subject to being dropped upon a third *unexcused* absence. For a one day per week class you are subject to being dropped upon a second *unexcused* absence. Late arrival counts as half of an absence, so the threshold in a two-day per week class is 4 late arrivals, and in a one day per week class it is two late arrivals.

Final Exam Attendance: The academic term at De Anza College is 12 weeks long. It includes all of week 12. You are required to be available for the scheduled final exam session as per this course green sheet and the college final exam schedule. Do not schedule events that conflict with the scheduled final exam session. *You will not be excused from the final exam nor will you be allowed to take it at an alternate time because you failed to note the date and time of the scheduled exam session. Be sure to schedule travel and other end-of-term events so that they do not conflict and jeopardize your course grade.*

Special Attendance Policy for Week I: During terms when your course section is full and students are waiting for space to add the class, students with a single unexcused absence during the first week are subject to being dropped from the class. It is absolutely critical that you attend each meeting and arrive on time or contact the instructor immediately if an emergency situation affects your attendance.

It is your responsibility to be aware of drop deadlines and to make timely arrangements with me and the registrar if you decide to drop this class. The class schedule lists deadlines for dropping with no record or for dropping with a "W" grade. I cannot guarantee that you will be dropped nor that you will be dropped before official deadlines if you stop attending class.

If meeting a deadline requires my signature or other action on my part, you must contact me during a scheduled class meeting or scheduled office hour before the deadline. I will not back-date drop requests submitted after deadlines.

Special note regarding students who add this class: If you get an add code to add the course after the start of the term, you must actually complete the add process by the next class meeting. If you do not take care of this I may not allow you to add and I will drop you to make room for other students who wish to add if necessary. If you must wait longer than 24 hours to add the class you must speak to me about an exception to this policy.

Special note regarding late arrival and availability of workstations: After the first five minutes of the period, any unused computers are available for use by students from other electronic music classes. If you arrive later than this you may not be able to use your usual computer.

Final Exam Session

Final projects are due at the scheduled final exam session. Attendance is Mandatory at the full two-hour scheduled exam session. *If you have something else scheduled at this time, you must make arrangements early in the quarter so that you can attend this session.*

Attendance at the full two-hour final exam session is required – no excuses!

Late Work

Assignments are late if they are not turned in **at the time the class session begins**. You are responsible for ensuring that you are on time on due dates – **arrive early** to make sure your work is not late. Better yet, turn your assignments in early.

- Quizzes may **not** be made up, though one may be missed without lowering your grade.
- Make-up tests may be possible for students who make **prior** arrangements with the instructor.
- Other late assignments will be **penalized** 1 letter grade for each class session after the due date.

- A penalty of at least one full letter grade on the class presentation assignment will result for students who are not ready to present on their assigned due dates. There is no guarantee that there will be class time available for a later presentation by students who miss their assigned date.

Contact the instructor immediately when you encounter technical problems while working on a project. If a technical problem interferes with your ability to complete a project by the due date, there will be no late penalty **only if you contacted the instructor at the time the problem occurred.**

Failure to turn in a final project may result in a grade of **F** for the course.

Copying and Cheating

The majority of students join with faculty members in working to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. I take this issue very seriously, and consequences can and will be very serious for students who fail to observe these standards.

Students who cheat or submit the work of others as their own work on assignments, papers, tests, or any other course assignments on which collaborative work is not specified are guilty of a serious violation of academic integrity standards and will be subject to substantial consequences which might lead to any or all of the following and/or other serious consequences not listed here: a failing grade on the work in question, a failing grade in the course, being dropped from the course, reduction in the course grade, loss of credit for certain portions of the course work including but not limited to the work in question, college disciplinary action, and/or notation in their permanent college/academic records.

A productive academic relationship between students and faculty and among students depends upon mutual trust and shared ethical values. Because serious violations of academic integrity standards call into question the integrity of all work submitted by the student, consequences are not limited to the specific work on which the violation is observed, and previously submitted work from students who are later found to have violated standards of academic integrity may be subject to reevaluation.

Be aware that the inclusion of inappropriate uncredited material may take multiple forms. Including the ideas and findings of experts without appropriate credit is one form. Including other students' ideas and observations in a paper that is to be based on your ideas and observations is another, as are "borrowing" and/or "re-wording" key phrases, sentences, observations, descriptions, paragraphs, or concepts from a friend, a book, a web site or any other source without crediting the source. Be particularly careful about this when you consider working on an assignment with other student in the class.

This list is not comprehensive. If in doubt, ask your teacher for guidance.

Cell Phones

Cell phone use during class is inappropriate and unacceptable. Having your phone on during class is a distraction to you and others in the classroom. **Turn off your cell phone and put it away** before entering the classroom. I will ask you to leave class for the day if your phone goes off during class or if you use your phone during class. Setting your phone on "silent" or "vibrate" is *not turning it off* – "Turn it off" means turn it off.

There is **one exception to the rule**: *If you inform me before class that you have a real emergency (e.g. sick child, serious illness in your family, etc.) and you must be on standby so that you can immediately deal with this emergency situation that would otherwise require you to miss class, I will give you one-time permission to leave your phone on and explain what to do when a call or text message arrives.*

Office Hours

Visiting your instructor during an office hour can help you succeed at De Anza. Sometimes you may not be sure if you understand the course material; you may be confused about an assignment; or you may feel that the instructor did not grade your work correctly. It is much better to come in and talk about it and solve the problem than it is to leave your issue unresolved.

Perhaps more importantly, a visit helps the instructor get to know you as a person. Many of us have several hundred new students each term! When you take the time to make a personal contact it helps the teacher make the connection between you and the name on the roll sheet.

Please visit me during my office hours, call 408-864-8511, or send email to mitchelldan@deanza.edu any time you have a question or problem relating to the course. You do not need an appointment to see me during an office hour, but you can make one if you prefer. My office is in room A15 in the A1 building located in the Arts Quad. My office hours are:

Monday 11:30-12:20	Tuesday 11:30-12:20	Wednesday 11:30-12:20	Thursday 11:30-12:20	Friday –
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If you cannot visit during a scheduled office hour, I am available to meet at many other times by appointment. For example, I am often available at 11:30 MTWTh or at 2:30 on MTWTh. Call me or send email to set up an alternate office visit. (Office hours are subject to change as announced in class and on my web sites.)

Green Sheet Notes

* Break time is built into the schedule for two-hour classes at De Anza College. Traditionally students in the Intermediate Electronic Music class have chosen to not taken a break in the middle of the period, so the “break” will begin at 2:10 with the agreement of the class.

Course Calendar

Notes:

- Because new course content and software is being introduced in the Intermediate Electronic Music course the calendar is subject to changes to be announced in class.
- Assignment deadlines will be announced in class in most cases.

Week I

- First class meeting
- Administrative issues, intro to software and equipment, Logic Pro review

Week II

- Introduction to Logic Pro and Reason software.

Week III

- Reason software
- Electronic music history topic 1**.

Week IV

- Reason software continued.
- Electronic music history topic quiz 1**.

Week V

- Advanced Logic Pro topics
- Electronic music history topic 2**.

Week VI

- Advanced Logic Pro Topics
- Electronic music history topic quiz 2**.
- Introduction to the Class Presentation project..

Week VII

- Software synthesis – Logic plugins
- Electronic music history topic 3**.

Week VIII

- Software synthesis – Logic plugins
- Electronic music history topic 3 quiz**.
- Class Presentation proposals due on Tuesday.

Week IX

- Electronic Music history topic test.**
- Intro to Final Project
- Possible start of class presentations – depends on number of students enrolled in the class.

Week X

- Other music software – e.g. notation software.
- [Presentations](#) – *attendance required* – Tuesday/Thursday @ 12:30-2:20

Week XI

- [Presentations](#) – *attendance required* – Tuesday/Thursday @ 12:30-2:20
- Work on Final Projects.

Week XII

- Final Exam Session: **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 at 11:30-1:30** .
- Attendance is Mandatory at the full two-hour scheduled exam session.

Calendar Notes:

* *The number of presentation sessions varies depending upon enrollment. Presentations may start either two or three weeks before final exams week.*

** *Note also that the quiz schedule may vary from what is shown here – announcements to be made in class.*

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