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MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER, DE ANZA COLLEGE

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Music 51 Syllabus

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

- Also by arrangement

Electronic Music

MUSIC 51: INTRO TO ELECTRONIC MUSIC

Music 51 Assignments

Music 51 Quizzes

Music 51 Syllabus

MUSIC 8: INTERMEDIATE ELECTRONIC MUSIC

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MUSIC 77: SPECIAL PROJECTS

ELECTRONIC MUSIC RESOURCES

Intro to Electronic Music Syllabus

Winter 2015 | 3 units | 12:30-2:20 MW section | 10:30-2:20 Friday Section | Room A91

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Welcome to Intro to Electronic Music

This syllabus (or “green sheet”) 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.

Course Objectives

- Operate basic hardware/virtual keyboard synthesizers, drum machines, simple mixers, and entry-level music software.
- Understand and use introductory-level audio, synthesis, music software, and MIDI terminology.
- Create musical projects in a variety of styles using synthesizers, drum machines, and MIDI sequencing software.
- Design, implement, and troubleshoot basic audio and MIDI studio equipment configurations.
- Recognize and describe basic historical developments in electronic music.

Description

Introduction to Electronic Music introduces the use of keyboard synthesizers, drum machines, and sequencing software to create music in a variety of styles; basic studio techniques; introduction to Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI); basic historical developments in electronic music; creation of music/audio projects using basic electronic music hardware and software. Some prior music experience is recommended but not required.

Advisory: READ 201 and EWRT 100A or LART 200 or ESL 161-163. Two hours lecture and two hours lecture/laboratory.

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.

Important: 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*

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.

Labs

Some time for lab work is provided during scheduled class time — sufficient to do basic class assignments. Additional practice time *may* be available after the start of the term and, if so, will be announced in class. Students may also use vacant workstations during other electronic music class sections.

Studio Rules

All electronic music students are responsible for reading, understanding, *and following* the studio rules This is 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.)

Grading

Written Tests – Two written tests will be given – each is worth 15% of the total course grade. Tests count for 30% of the course grade.

Quizzes – Quizzes will be given several times during the term. They include questions of the type found on the tests and serve as reviews for these tests. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but one may be missed without penalty. Quizzes count for 20% of the course grade.

Assignments and Projects – Written and recorded assignments using class software and hardware will be due throughout the quarter. Other assignments may be based on assigned listening and/or reading. This work counts for 20% of the course grade.

Final Project – Final projects are due at the scheduled final exam session — see the course calendar below. (Note: Because this class extends through more than one class hour, the final session may be rescheduled by the instructor for either of the sessions.) Attendance is required, so make early arrangements to avoid schedule conflicts. Project details are described elsewhere on the class website. Final projects are weighted at 30% of the course grade – but failure to complete a final project may result in a failing grade for the course. *Attendance at the full two-hour final exam session is required – no excuses!*

I use a weighted average system 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 +/- symbols. (There are no C- *course* grades at De Anza College.)

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 1: During terms when your course section is full and students are waiting for space to be added to 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 attendance at the Friday-only sections of Music 51: Because this section meets only once each week, missed classes are a significant concern – each absence is the equivalent of missing a full week of class. For this reason, it is expected that students who must miss a class for valid reasons will attend a MW section of Music 51 to make up for missed lab time and to learn material presented that week.

Also, during some terms the number of Friday class meetings is reduced substantially due to Friday holidays. For example, during a typical fall term we may lose two of the scheduled eleven meetings – the equivalent of losing a full two weeks of class! This makes regular attendance at the remaining class meetings even more critical. If you miss any Friday class sessions you should always plan to make up missed time by attending the MW classes. If you miss more than one Friday session you will be required to do so – failure to do this is cause for dropping you from the class.

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 complete the add process right away. 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.

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.

- Missed or late quizzes may **not** be made up, though one may be missed without lowering your grade since I do not include your lowest quiz grade in course grade calculations.
- Make-up midterms may be possible for students who make **prior** arrangements with the instructor or who encounter a serious and unanticipated last-minute emergency.
- Other late assignments may be **penalized** 1 letter grade for each class session after the due date.

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

A special policy applies to assignments that you must print from the website. If you encounter a printing problem and report it 48 hours or more before the deadline, it *may* be possible to get an extension in some cases, depending upon the situation. If you wait until fewer than 48 hours before the assignment deadline no extension will normally be granted.

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.

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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11:30-12:20	11:30-12:20	11:30-12:20	11:30-12:20	–

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 before my 9:30 MTWTh classes 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.)

Notes:

Reference copies of green sheets from previous terms may be available from the [Archive](#) page.

Calendar

Some assignment deadlines are not listed in the calendar, and they will be announced in class and on this website during the term. The schedule lists major topics. Other topics – including outside listening and reading – will be announced during the course. The schedule is subject to change.

Week I

- First Class Meeting: Assign Labs and Tutoring Sessions
- Join the web site before second class meeting.
- Intro to the classroom/workstation procedures
- Introduction to the Garage Band software.

Week II

- Garage Band software continued.
- Intro to Logic Software: MIDI recording, basic editing.

Week III

- Continued: Logic Software: MIDI recording, basic editing.
- Electronic Music History Topic 1
- Garage Band project due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 1](#)
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on Monday — campus closed**

Week IV

- Logic Software: controlling volume and panning, using additional tracks.
- Logic project due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 2](#)
- **Quiz 1** on first Electronic Music history topic due).

Week V

- Loop recording, aliases, copies, etc
- Logic project due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 3](#)

Week VI

- Audio loops, Apple loops
- Quantization
- **Quiz 2** on Electronic Music history topic due (MW class only)

Week VII

- Logic software synths.
- Logic Assignment due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 4](#)
- **Quiz 2** on Electronic Music history topic due (Friday class only) – followed by in-class review
- **Test #1**
- **Presidents Day Holiday — campus closed on Monday**

Week VIII

- Loop recording (“cycle”) and punching in/out (“autopunch”).
- Logic Assignment due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 5](#).

Week IX

- Audio editing in Logic
- Logic assignment due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 6](#) (date subject to change)
- Introduction to final projects.
- **Quiz #3** on electronic music history due

Week X

- Electronic music history and other topics.
- Continue work on final project.
- **Quiz #4**

Week XI

- Work time on final projects. Preview of final projects.
- Test 2 for Friday-only class*

Week XII

- Monday – Test #2 for Monday/Wednesday class at regularly scheduled class meeting.
- Final Exam Sessions – Final Project playback only – *attendance is mandatory at the full two-hour scheduled exam session.*
 - Final exam session for MW class is 11:30AM-1:30PM on FRIDAY, MARCH 27
 - Final exam session for Friday class is 9:15AM-11:15AM on THURSDAY, MARCH 28

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