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# DAN MITCHELL

## MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER, DE ANZA COLLEGE




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# Music 51 Syllabus

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OFFICE HOURS: FALL & WINTER

**Monday and Wednesday**

8:50 am - 9:20 am

11:30 am - 12:00 noon

**Tuesday and Thursday**

8:30 am - 9:20 am

OFFICE HOURS: SPRING

**Monday thru Thursday**

8:45 am-9:15 am

11:30 am-12:00 noon

(other times by appointment)

[Electronic Music](#)

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

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[MUSIC 8: INTERMEDIATE ELECTRONIC MUSIC](#)

[Music 8 Assignments](#)

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[MUSIC 77: SPECIAL PROJECTS](#)

[ELECTRONIC MUSIC RESOURCES](#)

(Music 51 syllabi from previous classes are found on the [Syllabus Archive page](#).)

## Music 51: Introduction to Electronic Music Syllabus

**Fall 2016** | 3 units (2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab)

**12:30-2:45 Monday/Wednesday** section | Room A91

### Welcome to Introduction to Electronic Music

This syllabus describes course policies and is a contract between you and your teacher. Other materials on this website are extensions of the syllabus and also reflect official course policies. (Some details of the syllabus are subject to change prior to the start of the new term and again during the term as announced in class.)

### 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. (Consult the [De Anza College Catalog](#) directly for the most current official information.)

### 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.

### Text and Materials

**Text** – *No text is required.* Written course materials are available within the course software and links to online resources will be provided in class.

**Access to a computer** with a printer, web browser, and [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#). You will use the electronic music lab computers for course-related work during your assigned lab time.

Important: Some assignments must be downloaded from this website and printed *at least 48 hours before they are due*.

**Personal headphones** with 1/8" stereo phone plug are *required at all class sessions*.

**Highly recommended: USB flash memory stick** or similar device (e.g. – writable CD/DVD media, external USB drive, accessible web disk, etc.) is ***strongly recommended to back up your work and move files between computers. Capacity of 1GB or larger is sufficient.***

## Labs

Three hours of weekly lab is provided during scheduled class time and is 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 available workstations during other electronic music class sections if any are scheduled.

## Studio Rules

- **No unauthorized visitors** 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 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.
- **Cell phones use not permitted in class** – cell phone policy is described below.
- The lab computers are for **electronic music course work only**.
- **Shut down your computer** at the end of class. (Choose “Shut Down” from the Apple Menu at the upper left corner of the screen.)

## Grading

- **Written Tests** – There are two written tests, each of which is worth 15% of the total course grade.
- **Quizzes** – Quizzes will be given several times during the term. They include questions like those 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 projects using class software and hardware will be assigned 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. Attendance is required, so make early arrangements to avoid schedule conflicts. Final projects are worth 30% of the course grade – but failure to complete a final project may result in a failing grade for the course.

A weighted average system is used to determine your final course grade — not a point system. Completed assignments and course grades use base letter grades A, B, C, D, and F and +/- symbols. (There are no C- *course* grades at De Anza College.)

You may check grade progress online on a password-protected web page. More information about this will be provided in class. Let the instructor know immediately if you think a grade is missing or incorrect. It may not be possible to correct a grade if you wait more than 72 hours after an assignment is handed back or after grades are posted on the website.

*Contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation if an emergency interferes with completion of course work near the end of the term.* If you stop attending at the end of the course you are subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.

**Pass/NoPass Option** — If you are not concerned with earning a particular letter grade in this class, you could consider the P/NP option. You will earn a “passing” grade as long as your work averages to a C or better. See the college catalog for more information.

## Attendance

Attendance may be taken at each class session, and you should contact the instructor immediately if you miss a class. You may be dropped after a third *unexcused* absence. Late arrival counts as half of an absence. However, there is no guarantee that you will automatically be dropped if you stop attending without notifying the instructor.

**Final Exam Attendance:** You are required to attend the officially-scheduled week twelve final exam session. Schedule travel and other end-of-term events so that they do not conflict and jeopardize your course grade.

**Week One Attendance:** *Attend each meeting and arrive on time or contact the instructor immediately if an emergency situation affects your attendance.* When the class is full and students are waiting to add to the class, registered students may be dropped for a *single unexcused absence* during the first week.

**Using Your Add Code:** If you get an add code after the start of the term, you must complete the add process right

away. If you wait I may drop you to make room for other students who wish to add. Speak to me about an exception if you must wait longer than 24 hours to add the class.

**Late arrival and availability of workstations:** After the first five minutes of the period, any unoccupied workstations 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* unless otherwise specified. You must arrive on time on due dates – *arrive early* to make sure your work is not late.

- Missed or late quizzes may **not** be made up, though you may miss one without lowering your grade since your lowest quiz grade is discarded.
- Make-up midterms may be possible for students who make **prior** arrangements or who encounter a serious and unanticipated last-minute emergency.
- Other late assignments may be *penalized* one 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 may 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.

## Academic Integrity

*Students and faculty share the goal of maintaining the highest standards of academic integrity. I take this issue very seriously, and consequences can be very serious for students who fail to observe these standards. Consult my statement on [Academic Integrity](#) for details about my official policies — and ask for guidance if you have questions. The [college academic integrity policy](#) and [student code of conduct](#) are available at the college website.*

## Cell Phones

*Cell phone use during class is not permitted. **Turn off your cell phone and put it away before entering the classroom.***

I will ask you to leave the room for the remainder of the period if your phone goes off during class or if you use your phone during class. Having your phone on during class is a distraction to you and others in the classroom. Setting your phone on “silent” or “vibrate” is *not turning it off* – “Turn it off” means “turn it off.”

If you realize during class that you have an unanticipated *critical* need to check your phone, you must quietly leave the room, and move a good distance away from the classroom door before taking out your phone and turning it on. Turn the phone back off when you finish and return to class.

If you have a **serious emergency situation** (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 and you would otherwise have to miss class, the following applies:

1. You *must discuss the emergency situation with me* at the start of the period.
2. I'll ask you to sit where you can make a quick and quiet exit *to answer the call outside the classroom*.
3. Your phone must be on the *silent setting*.
4. If a call/text arrives you must *leave the room before answering*.

## Laptops, Tablets, and Similar Devices

I permit use of such devices during class by students *who use them exclusively for purposes directly related to the course and who sit in the first three rows of the classroom only*.

Laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices are never permitted during quiz or exam sessions. The use or presence

of such devices or similar during exams and quizzes is a violation of class policy and will have serious consequences including an immediate failing grade on the exam or quiz.

## Office Hours

Visiting your instructor during an office hour can help you succeed. It is much better to come in and discuss problems and questions than it is to leave your issues unresolved. A visit also helps your teacher get to know you as a person. Many of us have hundreds of new students each term! When you take the time to make a personal contact it helps us make the connection between you and the name on the roll sheet. An office hour visit is a great opportunity to discuss concerns or challenges that could affect your performance in the course and to discuss possible accommodations that may help you achieve success.

Please visit me during my office hours, call 408-864-8511, or send email to [mitchelldan@deanza.edu](mailto: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 listed in the left sidebar of pages at this website. I usually can meet at other times by appointment. 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 websites.)

## 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 1: 9/26-9/30

- 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 2: 10/3-10/7

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

### Week 3: 10/10-10/14

- Continued: Logic Software: MIDI recording, basic editing.
- Electronic Music History Topic 1
- Garage Band project due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 1](#)

### Week 4: 10/17-10/21

- 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 5: 10/24-10/28

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

### Week 6: 10/31-11/4

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

### Week 7: 11/7-11/10\*

- 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**
- \* Friday, November 11 is Veterans Day Holiday (does not affect this class)

#### Week 8: 11/14-11/17

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

#### Week 9: 11/21-11/23\*\*

- 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
- \*\* Thanksgiving Holiday on Thursday 11/24 and Friday 11/25 (does not affect this class)

#### Week 10: 11/28-12/2

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

#### Week 11: 12/5-12/9

- Work time on final projects. Preview of final projects.
- Test 2 for last class meeting of the week

#### Week 12: 12/12-12/16

- **Final exam session for MW class is 11:30AM-1:30PM on WEDNESDAY, December 14.** (Because all De Anza classes use a revised final exam week schedule this date and time should not conflict with other classes. Contact your teacher immediately if you think you have a conflict.)
- Final Project playback only – *Attendance at the full two-hour final exam session is required – no exceptions!*

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