

DAN MITCHELL

MUSIC FACULTY MEMBER, DE ANZA COLLEGE

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Music 51 Syllabus

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- 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 2016 | 3 units | 2 hours lecture, 3 hours lab | 12:30-2:45 MW section | Room A91

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Welcome to Intro to Electronic Music

This syllabus (or “green sheet”) describes official course policies 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 – *No text is required.* Some course materials are available within the software that we use and links to additional 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. *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.*

Personal headphones with 1/8” stereo phone plug (e.g. — “iPhone headphones”) or other headphones/earbuds and appropriate adapter 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 this 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 your session.
- **Cell phones use not permitted in class** – read the cell phone policy below in this syllabus.
- The lab computers are for **electronic music course work only**.
- **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.)

Violations of the studio rules may lead to *suspension of access to the studios* and other serious consequences.

Grading

Written Tests – There are two written tests, each of which 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. Attendance is required, so make early arrangements to avoid schedule conflicts. 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 exceptions!

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

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. 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 you have completed the majority of the course work with a passing grade or better. If you stop attending at the end of the course you are subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.

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. Late arrival counts as half of an absence, so more than four late arrivals may put you over the absence limit.

Final Exam Attendance: You are required to attend the scheduled week 12 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. 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 the course section is full and students are waiting to add 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.

Note for students who add this class: If you get an add code after the start of the term, you must complete the add process right away. If you do not, I may 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.

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** 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 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** 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 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.

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. **Cell phones must be turned off and put away.** Setting your phone on “silent” or “vibrate” is *not turning it off* – “Turn it off” means “turn it off.”

There is **one rare exception to the rule**: 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

There are legitimate course-related reasons to use a laptop, tablet computer, or similar device during regular class sessions. For this reason I permit use of such devices during class by students *who use them exclusively for purposes directly related to the course 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.

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	8:30-9:20	11:30-12:20	8:30-9:20	—

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.)

An office hour visit is a great opportunity to discuss concerns or challenges that might affect your performance in the course and to discuss necessary accommodations that may help you achieve success.

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 1 | 1/4-1/8

- 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 | 1/11-1/15

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

Week 3 | 1/18-1/22

- Monday 1/18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday — campus closed and no class.
- Continued: Logic Software: MIDI recording, basic editing.
- Electronic Music History Topic 1
- Garage Band project due: [Intro to Electronic Music Assignment 1](#)

Week 4 | 1/25-1/29

- 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 | 2/1-2/5

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

Week 6 | 2/8-2/12

- Friday 2/12: Lincoln's Birthday Holiday — campus closed and no classes.
- Audio loops, Apple loops
- Quantization
- **Quiz 2** on Electronic Music history topic due (MW class only)

Week 7 | 2/15-1/19

- Monday 2/15: Washington's Birthday Holiday — campus closed and no classes.
- 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**

Week 8 | 2/22-2/26

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

Week 9 | 2/29-3/3

- 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 10 | 3/7-3/11

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

Week 11 | 3/14-3/18

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

Week 12 | 12/7-12/10

- **Final exam session** for MW class is **11:30AM-1:30PM on WEDNESDAY, March 23**.
- Final Project playback only – *Attendance at the full two-hour final exam session is required – no exceptions!*

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