

Music 161 Digital Media for Musicians
College of the Holy Cross Spring 2009

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Class Times: Tuesday, Thursday 9:30-10:45 or 11:00-12:15

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 - 3:00 pm, Thursday 1:30 - 3:30 pm

Classroom: Scalia Lab, 2nd floor Dinand Library

Welcome to “Music 161 - Digital Media for Musicians”

Digital media offers an expansive new environment for today’s musician. No longer is a musician confined to just writing and performing. With the benefits of digital technology, a composer/performer can control most facets of their career: recording and editing, electronic promotion, artwork, website development, online music distribution, and CD creation.

Objectives of this Course

The objective of this course is to let you fulfill your creative musical aspirations, using today’s digital resources. You will learn the basics of digital audio and other aspects of digital media (text, images, and video) that are essential in today’s music world.

This course will also sharpen your managerial skills. Weekly tutorials will show you how to control and manipulate assets and your midterm and final projects will teach you how to build a framework for assembling a major project.

Weekly Class Structure and Semester Timeline

During a typical Tuesday class we will first discuss and analyze topics from your reading. Then we will apply these concepts to a specific multimedia application you are learning. At the end of the Tuesday class we will focus on the tutorial assignment for the week. This tutorial will be due on Thursday when we will review your results.

Our semester timeline will be as follows: After an introductory week of multimedia basics, we will start with two-track digital audio and elementary MIDI. Then we will veer off into the world of text and visual media - pdfs, Powerpoint presentations, and websites. After spring break we will finish website design before plunging back into more complex aspects of digital audio: multi-tracking, mixing, mastering, audio for the internet and audio for video.

Computers, Platforms and Software

Classes are conducted in Scalia Lab (2nd floor Dinand Library) where there are 20 Windows XP systems and 4 iMacs. If you have a Mac laptop, I would encourage you to bring it to class. Most of your music work will be done in the MIDI Lab (basement of Fenwick) where there are 4 iMac music production workstations. The Music Library also has several PCs and a few iMacs where you can also access most of the software we will use.

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Some of the software we use is licensed only for the college computers, but there are links in the syllabus where you can download free or trial versions of the software for your home computer. Be sure to arrive in class on time because you will oftentimes need to load software from the HC server onto your classroom computer.

Homework for each Class

Usually 25-40 pages of reading will be assigned (1 hour), as well as a tutorial due for the Thursday class each week (1-2 hours).

Projects, Quizzes, and Projects

There will be no exams, but there will be announced quizzes along the way to measure your aptitude of the reading. In place of exams there will be two projects: a midterm and a final. Both projects will be creative in nature and cumulative, culminating in publishing a professional music project.

This is a paperless course. The syllabus, course materials, tutorials, and quizzes will be updated and administered through Moodle, which you should revisit on a weekly basis.

Grading

Final grades will be calculated as follows: Final Project 40%, Midterm Project 20%, Tutorials 20%, Quizzes 20%.

Texts

Our main text will be:

Multimedia: Making it Work, Seventh Edition by Tay Vaughan
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Osborne Media; ISBN: 0072230002

In addition the following companion books will be on reserve in the music library:

“The Future of Music: Manifesto for the Digital Music Revolution”
by Dave Kusek, Gerd Leonhard
“The Self-Promoting Musician” by Peter Spellman
“Making Music Make Money: An Insider's Guide to Becoming Your Own Music
Publisher” by Eric Beall

There will also be reading assignments posted on Moodle or the world wide web.

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Schedule

Week 1 First Class - Introduction

Thurs. Jan 15

Week 2 Introduction to Multimedia

Tues. Jan. 20

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 1, What is Multimedia?, p. 1-12
Vaughan: Chapter 2, Introduction to Making Multimedia, p. 18-23

Thurs. Jan. 22

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 9, Hardware, p. 226-255
Chapter 10, Basic Software Tools, p. 262-277

Week 3 Sound and Digital Audio

Tues. Jan. 27

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 5, Sound, p. 96-106

Tutorial prep: Download Audacity from <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/download/>

Thurs. Jan. 29

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 5, Sound, p. 115-124
read article "The Mic Demystified.pdf" from Moodle/Course Materials/Audio

Tutorial: Edit examples of dialogue and music posted on Moodle

Week 4 MIDI and Digital Audio

Tues. Feb. 3

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 5, Sound, p. 106-115,
"GarageBand tutorial, pt. 1 from Moodle/Course Materials/Audio
watch: <http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/garageband/index.html>
"Creating Your GarageBand Project" and "Starting Your Song with a Beat"

Tutorial prep: Familiarize yourself with GarageBand in the MIDI Lab (Fenwick 032)

Thurs. Feb. 5

Reading: read articles "GarageBand tutorial, pt. 2-3" from Moodle/Course Materials/Audio
watch: <http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/garageband/index.html>
"Auditioning More Musicians" and "Building Your Song Over Time"

Tutorial: Create a simple MIDI piece using GarageBand (details in Moodle)

Week 5 Text

Tues. Feb. 10 **QUIZ on Sound and Digital Audio**

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 4, Text, p. 48-66

Tutorial prep: create a Word file and .pdf about "digital audio" (details in Moodle)

Thurs. Feb. 12

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 4, Text, p. 66-90

Tutorial: create a PowerPoint presentation on "digital audio" (details in Moodle)

Week 6 Images

Tues. Feb. 17

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 6, Images, p. 132-144

Tutorial prep: download [Adobe Photoshop Elements](#)

Thurs. Feb. 19

Reading: Photoshop Elements Tutorial

Tutorial: create a music poster

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Week 7 Images cont.

Tues. Feb. 24

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 6, Images, p. 144-162

Tutorial prep: continue working with Photoshop Elements

Thurs. Feb. 26

Reading: Chapter 14, Designing for the World Wide Web, p. 349-354

Tutorial: design a record label logo

Week 8

SPRING VACATION

Week 9 Web Design

Tues. Mar. 10

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 12, The Internet and How It Works, p. 308-324

Tutorial prep: download [Dreamweaver](#)

Thurs. Mar. 12 **Midterm Project due**

Reading: Vaughan: Chapter 13, Tools for the World Wide Web, p. 330-340

Tutorial prep: create tables with Dreamweaver

Week 10 Web Design cont.

Tues. Mar. 17

Reading: Vaughan: Vaughan: Chapter 14, Designing for the World Wide Web, p. 347-67

Thurs. Mar. 19

Reading: Vaughan: Vaughan: Chapter 14, Designing for the World Wide Web, p. 347-67

Tutorial: finish your record label website

Week 11 Digital Audio – tracking with GarageBand

Tues. Mar. 24

Reading: “GB Live Audio.pdf” in Moodle/Course Materials/Audio

watch: <http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/garageband/index.html>

“Playing a Software Instrument with Your Song” and “Playing Guitar with Your Song”

Thurs. Mar. 26

Reading: “GB Live Audio.pdf” in Moodle/Course Materials/Audio

watch: <http://www.apple.com/support/ilife/tutorials/garageband/index.html>

“Making Changes to Software Instrument Tracks” and “Recording Real Instrument Tracks”

Tutorial: Record a live instrument with GarageBand

Week 12 Digital Audio – tracking & mixing with ProTools / Logic

Tues. March 31

Reading: “pt_7_manual.pdf”, chapter 12, Basic Audio Recording

Thurs. April 2

Tutorial: record label website should be ‘up and running.’

Week 13 Digital Audio – the Internet

Tues. April 7

Reading: (all in Moodle) “internet production.pdf” by Stanley Alten

“Audio for the Worldwide Web.pdf” by Charlie Morris and

Tutorial: post your music to your label website

Thurs. April 9

No class - Easter Break

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Week 14 Digital Audio - CD Mastering & Enhanced CD

Tues. April 14

Reading: “Mastering_Katz” and “Mastering_Speer” in Moodle/Course Materials/Audio

Thurs. April 16

Reading: “Pre-mastering for ECD” by Toby Mountain in Moodle/Course Materials/Audio

Tutorial: Create a mix of one or two of your pieces and export it or “bounce” it with GarageBand/ProTools. Master it.

Week 15 Digital Audio for Video

Tues. April 21 QUIZ on Digital Audio

Watching: Two videos: “Les Paul” and “Pink Floyd” available in MIDI Lab.

Reading: “quicktime_tricks.pdf” in Moodle/Course Materials/Video

Thurs. April 23

Reading: “videosound_rose.pdf” in Moodle/Course Materials/Video

Tutorial: create a soundtrack using QuickTime.

Week 16 Review

Tues. April 28

Musical Jeopardy

STUDY PERIOD BEGINS April 29

Tuesday, May 5 Final Projects due