

Department of Music

MP-102: Digital Music Sequencing

2 class hours; 2 laboratory hours; 3 credits;

Prerequisites: MP-101 and MU-208, both completed with a grade of C or better

An introduction to the use of synthesizers and computers in the production of sequencer-based compositions. Students apply basic techniques by working with professional sequencing programs and synthesizers in the Music Technology Lab.

This is a required junior-level course in the Music Production curriculum

Instructor: Robert Anderson
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Class Hours

Tuesday:

Lecture: 3:10 pm – 5 pm Room H-138

Lab: 5:10 pm – 7 pm Room H-138

Course Objectives

<u>Course objectives</u>	<u>Learning outcomes</u>
1. Students will integrate knowledge of basic music theory with knowledge of working in a DAW environment to compose and arrange original music in the American popular style.	Students will: a. use notation software and a DAW to build chords and construct chord progressions b. use MIDI and software instruments to realize their compositions c. use different sequencing techniques in the creation of their compositions
2. Students will analyze their own and other compositions to identify aspects of song and arrangement form using the correct vocabulary in verbal and written form.	Students will a. identify different types of song form. b. as a group and individually, analyze commercially released recordings to determine the elements used in its construction. These elements include (but are not limited to): instrumentation, song form, elements of a musical arrangement, etc. c. integrate these elements of arrangement, song form, and instrumentation in the creation of an original song.
3. Students will use chord progressions and melodic phrasing to construct and define sections of a song or arrangement.	Students will a. construct triads and chord progressions based on Roman Numeral analysis b. construct melodies based on triads and chord progressions.
4. Students will use common song forms in the American popular idiom to create original works.	Students will a. construct a song/arrangement based on the 12-bar blues. b. construct a song/arrangement based on verse/chorus form.
5. Students will orchestrate and arrange compositions for multiple instruments.	Beginning with the building blocks outlined in (4), students will orchestrate their compositions using instruments common in American popular music including (but not limited to): bass, drums, guitars, keyboard instruments, synthesizers, etc.

Attendance:

Attendance of this class is not optional. More than three unexcused absences will result in a loss of one letter on your final grade. Lateness is not tolerated: coming to class more than 20 minutes late will be considered an absence.

It is highly recommended that you obtain notes from other students if you are absent or late as I will not give private lessons.

Creativity and initiative are rewarded and encouraged. Simply fulfilling the minimum requirements of an assignment will result in a C grade.

REQUIRED:

You will need a pair of headphones with a 1/4" -> 1/8" adapter at **EVERY SESSION** of the class. An adapter can be purchased at any Radio Shack store - be sure that it is Stereo-to-Stereo.

You will need a portable hard drive of some kind to back up and transport your work. A USB thumb drive is fine. I recommend you buy one from a reputable manufacturer such as SanDisk.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN HEADPHONES TO EVERY CLASS.

Failure to do so will result in a mark of “unprepared” for that session of the class. Two or more of these marks will adversely affect your final grade.

No – you can’t borrow mine.

Grading:

Attendance	10%
Attitude/Class Participation:	10%
Quiz grades	20%
Final Exam	10%
Project 1:	10%
Project 2	15%
Final Project:	15%
Timeline Analysis	10%

Additional Considerations:

- **Cheating will result in an automatic F for the course**
- **Cell Phone use is not permitted in class. Use of a cell phone during an exam or quiz results in an automatic grade of zero for that exam/quiz.**
- **Leaving the room during an exam/quiz is not permitted and will result in a zero for the exam/quiz.**
- **Eating and drinking are not allowed at any time in the classroom.**

Course Outline

Week	Objective
1	Lec: Introduction Part I: building triads and 4-bar progressions Lab: constructing 8 bar progression/melody; intro to Sibelius
2	Lec: Introduction Part II: basic form – 12-bar blues Lab: Basic Blues in Sibelius
3	Lec: Intro to orchestration; chord voicing basics Lab: Exporting & Importing MIDI files; Expanding 12-bar blues
4	QUIZ 1 Project 1 Due: basic 12-bar Blues in Sibelius Lec: Basic Elements of song form and arranging Lab: Intro to using MIDI in Pro Tools: MIDI controls, regions, groups, editing environments
5	Lec: Managing MIDI: signal flow, ITB vs. OTB Lab: Using MIDI instruments; layering and modifying patches
6	Lec: Off the grid: Quantization techniques, grid and note resolutions Lab: Using a step sequencer: drum machine programming basics
7	Lec: Synthesis basics Lab: Using synths to make your own sounds
8	Lec: Parallel vs. Inline processing; creating spaces using reverb and delay Lab: Using effects: EQ, Reverb, & Delay
9	Lec: Using and creating loops and samples Lab: Recording Techniques: Linear, Loop, Overdubbing, Punching; finish Project 2
10	Quiz 2 Project 2 Due: Presentation of expanded 12-bar Blues Lec: Analyzing songs: timeline project
11	Due: Choice of song for final project analysis Lec: Advanced use of effects: parallel dynamics processing Lab: Using dynamics processing
12	Due: Draft Timeline Lec: Mixing techniques: Using automation Lab: Work on Final Projects
13	Work on Final Projects
14	Finish Final Projects Review for Final Exam
15	Present Final Projects FINAL EXAM