

MUSIC TECHNOLOGY 1

MUST 1215

TUESDAY & THURSDAY: 12:00–12:50PM
PROSPECT HALL 308

JESUS APODACA
JDAPODACA2@MINERS.EDU
OFFICE: M339
PHONE: 915-747-8164

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OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY 7:30–9:30AM
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

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■ COURSE OBJECTIVES

Music Technology 1 will introduce concepts and develop a working comprehension of the following:

- Sound, the harmonic series, timbre
- Microphones and microphone selection
- Signal path
- MIDI controllers
- Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)
- Music notation software
- Recording, tracking, editing, comping
- Plug-ins, effects

The class will involve lectures, in-class work time, as well as assignments and projects which will need to be completed outside of class time.

■ MUSICAL PREREQUISITES

None, however, basic understanding of music theory such as scales, chords, time signatures, rhythms, and tempo are highly encouraged and extremely beneficial.

■ REQUIRED MATERIALS

Removable hard drive, ideally at least 1TB, but at least sufficient to hold all of your projects/files necessary for the class. All other necessary equipment and programs will be available in Prospect Hall 308 (headphones, MIDI keyboard, interface, basic cables, computer, etc.)

Prospect Hall 308 has both Apple computers and Microsoft computers available on a first-come first-served basis.

Students are more than welcome to bring their own laptops, headphones, and peripherals, but are responsible for making sure they have the appropriate cables to connect to the MIDI keyboard and interfaces that are in the classroom as well as to the HDMI equipped display for presenting projects.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance in each class is mandatory and required. Roll will be taken at each class. Each unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the students' grade at a rate of 3 points per absence. Absences may be excused on a case-by-case basis with prior notice of at least 24 hours.

Students are responsible for all material discussed and presented in all classes, regardless of their presence.

Tests, exams, pop quizzes, or extra assignments may be given during any particular class. Permission to make up any of the aforementioned grades/assignments will be given by Mr. Apodaca at his sole discretion. Otherwise students should expect to receive a zero (0) for any grades/assignments taken in their absence, in addition to the regular 3 point deduction from their overall grade.

To prevent disturbances in lectures/presentations, the door to Prospect Hall 308 will be locked beginning at 12:05 PM and students will not be able to enter the room after this time.

CELL PHONE / TABLET / COMPUTER POLICY

During lectures, all notes should be taken by hand and transferred later, outside of class time, to tablets/computers. This is to prevent keyboard clicking/clacking during lectures as this can be distracting.

Cell phones are not permitted to be used during class for any reason. If a phone call or text message is of such importance that it needs to be addressed/answered immediately, please step out of the room to attend to it.

If you are using materials that have been uploaded to Blackboard to follow along to a lecture, you should print it out before class begins. Otherwise, please expect to follow along/pay attention to the large screen in class. On occasion, Mr. Apodaca may ask that students open a program/file on the computer and follow along - on these occasions students are expected to be following along and/or using only the program that is being discussed in class (i.e., not online shopping, responding to emails, playing computer games, etc.)

Failure to comply with this policy will first be given a warning and will subsequently negatively impact the student's grade at the rate of half a letter grade per infraction.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS AND SHORT PROJECTS

Each unit/week will include an assignment and/or short project to be completed before the following Tuesday class. Assignments will be made available and assigned after Thursday's class and will be due before 12 PM on Tuesdays.

In some cases, a short project may be assigned over the course of two or more weeks in lieu of weekly assignments.

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FINAL PROJECT

The final project will be highly individualized to take into account students strengths and interests. Students should plan on a seven to ten minute long presentation of their final project, which will be presented to the class from November 28 through December 7.

All Final Projects must be turned in by 11:59 PM on Monday, November 27, 2023 and all students should be ready to present their project on November 28, 2023. Order of presentations will be determined at random and posted to the classroom no later than Friday, November 24.

Each day after November 27 (beginning November 28), Final Projects which have not been turned in will face a 10 point penalty on the project, without exception.

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GENERAL GRADING POLICY

- A EXCEPTIONAL:** Work displays the highest caliber that could be expected from a student. It is clear and far above average. Video or audio is very high quality although not professional and time has clearly been spent on presenting as professional a product as possible. Written assignments contain all correct information/answers, are written at a very high-level, are proofread, are clear, thoughtful, and concise.
- B ABOVE AVERAGE:** Work displays above average effort. The work is on track toward near-professional but is still lacking refinement and polish. Written assignments contain correct information, but are maybe not proofread or containing small grammatical or other errors. Thoughts are intelligent but could be communicated more clearly or thoughtfully.
- C AVERAGE:** Work is sufficient and displays an understanding of the material but nothing more. Audio and video files may contain the correct information, but are blurry, too far away/close, not correct volume, not centered or mixed properly, etc. It is on time and not late. Written assignments do have mostly correct information with only a few wrong answers, but the product does not appear professional at all and includes slang, grammatical errors, was clearly not proofread, etc.
- D BELOW AVERAGE:** Work is the bare minimum required to receive credit. Some information may be incorrect but there is sufficient evidence of overall comprehension. Videos or audio may be unedited or rough, not centered or otherwise unclear/unprofessional looking or sounding. The student likely did not re-watch or listen back their own video/audio before submitting and therefore did not make any attempt to improve it. Written assignments display a general understanding of the topic but are not near professional looking, are not written at a high level, are clearly not proofread and contain many grammatical errors.
- F UNACCEPTABLE:** Work clearly does not meet the minimum standards. It is not professional in appearance and was clearly either thrown together or completed at the last minute. Works were not re-watched/listened to and edited/improved/tried again. Written assignments are either incorrect, seem not well thought-out, contain grammatical errors, are not properly or professionally formatted.
- I INCOMPLETE:** Grade of Incomplete is reserved for extreme circumstances in which the student is by no fault of their own unable to complete the semester. Up to this point, the student had been on pass to earn a high grade and had been displaying a high level of work. An Incomplete will be issued at the sole discretion of the professor under the consultation of the String Area Coordinator and the Director of the Music Department.

UTEP PROVOST OFFICE COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to covidaction@utep.edu, so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit epstrong.org. For more information on COVID-19 visit the CDC website: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html)

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CHEATING/PLAGIARISM

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording; it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to: utep.edu/dos/acadintg.html for further information.

ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or e-mail them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal: utep.edu/student-affairs/cass

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

AUGUST 29

FIRST DAY OF CLASS

Introductions
Sound and Physics

AUGUST 31

Sound and Physics
continued

SEPTEMBER 5

Signal Path:
Audio Sources,
Signal Type, Cables

SEPTEMBER 7

Signal Path:
Input, DAW/Board,
Amplification,
Processing, Output

SEPTEMBER 12

MIDI:
Overview and
Introduction

SEPTEMBER 14

MIDI:
In Practice

SEPTEMBER 19

Digital Audio
Workstations:
Overview and
Introduction

SEPTEMBER 21

Digital Audio
Workstations:
Creating MIDI tracks

SEPTEMBER 26

Recording:
Microphone Set-Up and
Tracking

SEPTEMBER 28

Recording:
Multi-Tracking and
Comping

OCTOBER 3

Notation Software:
Overview and
Introduction

OCTOBER 5

NO CLASS
Notation Software
Assignment

OCTOBER 10

NO CLASS
Review Presentation
on Effects: EQ,
Compression

OCTOBER 12

Effects:
Reverb, Delay, Chorus,
Flanger, Chaining Effects

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 17

Live Sound:
Behind the board:
Overview and Introduction

OCTOBER 19

Live Sound:
In Practice

OCTOBER 24

Live Sound:
On stage:
Overview and Introduction

OCTOBER 26

Live Sound:
On stage: In Practice

OCTOBER 31

Arranging

NOVEMBER 2

In Education

NOVEMBER 7

FINAL PROJECTS
In-Class Work Time

NOVEMBER 9

FINAL PROJECTS
In-Class Work Time

NOVEMBER 14

FINAL PROJECTS
In-Class Work Time

NOVEMBER 16

FINAL PROJECTS
In-Class Work Time

NOVEMBER 21

NO CLASS

NOVEMBER 23

NO CLASS

NOVEMBER 28

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

NOVEMBER 30

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 5

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 7

FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS

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