MUS 324 102Z Music Production and Songwriting
Online
Jacksonville University, Spring 2021

Instructor: Dr. Mark Snyder msnyder3@ju.edu   **Office Hours:** MTR 2:00 – 4:00 PM
Phillips Fine Arts 118

This syllabus is informational in nature and is not an express or implied contract. It is subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances, as a result of any circumstance outside the University's control, or as other needs arise. If, in the University's sole discretion, public health conditions or any other matter affecting the health, safety, upkeep or wellbeing of our campus community or operations requires the University to move to remote teaching, alternative assignments may be provided so that the learning objectives for the course, as determined by the faculty and the University, can still be met. The University does not guarantee specific in-person, on-campus classes, activities, opportunities, or services or any other particular format, timing, or location of education, classes, activities, or services.

COVID-19 & SOCIAL DISTANCING PROCEDURES

- **Face coverings are required in all classroom buildings on campus at all times.**
- This class is delivered face to face in the classroom and virtually (synchronously) via Blackboard Collaborate.
- Depending on the number of students in the class and the size of the classroom, students may be assigned specific days to attend in class versus virtually (via Bb Collaborate). Classes that meet two days a week may choose to have 1/2 of the students attend the face-to-face class on one day and the other half on the second day. Classes that meet three times a week may choose to have 1/3 of the students attend the in-class session each day. Classes that meet one time each week may choose to alternate weeks and have half of the students attend each week. These restrictions (if imposed) are based on following social distancing guidelines and are determined based on class size and classroom size. **On days when students are assigned not to attend the face-to-face sessions, they should attend class virtually via Blackboard on the same days and time. Students may not independently choose to attend all class sessions virtually without the appropriate accommodation from the Disability Support Services office (see COVID-19 Accommodations below).**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to MUS 320: Music Production and Songwriting. In this course, you will learn to write, record, produce and share your music.

COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will gain:

- Experience using Reaper and Ableton Live Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)
- A basic introduction to music theory terminology (analysis)
- An understanding of form in songwriting both in terms of its standard structures (e.g., verse/chorus/bridge) and in terms of how to creatively alter those standards.
- Engage in song writing (creation)
- An understanding of MIDI techniques (sampling, synthesized sound generation, computers, controllers)
- Develop skills in audio production as it is used in composition, recording, editing and performance.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the songwriting process and your individual creative processes.
- Perform fundamental to intermediate tasks in a Digital Audio Workstation.

- Apply your knowledge of theory to streamline your creative process.
- Use the creative process to understand oneself and solve problems.
- Develop skills in audio production as it is used in composition, recording, editing and performance.
- Develop listening skills to draw from the rich tradition of music production techniques to apply creative applications of sonic tools to modern productions

ASSIGNMENT DECSRIPTIONS:

Homework 30%
In addition to the readings and lab work, there are graded homework assignments. These consist of project drafts and writing activities that demonstrate your progress in the course. You will turn these in on Blackboard and will include evidence and integration of course readings.

Projects 60%
There are three Projects that will demonstrate what you have learned in Live & Reaper. These will be completed and uploaded to Blackboard for grading and critique from the class.

Critiques and Participation 10%
Students are expected to participate in the critiques of the projects that occur when these projects are played in class. Failure to do so will lower your participation grade. Critiques are designed to offer insights, suggestions for improvement and support to encourage you to improve your work. Each of you will provide an affective grade for each of final projects that is averaged in with my affective grade and feedback.
In addition to the above requirements, participation will be measured against the following criteria:
- Contribute original thoughts or ideas to the critiques.
- Give relevant reasons to validate points.
- Demonstrate openness to divergent points of view.
- Be respectful of the perceptions of others.
- Integrate material from previous units to formulate ideas and generate dialogue.

FORMAT

- Lecture will be integrated with student presentations and discussions of textbook reading and primary literature.
- Students will be expected to participate in class.
- Most of class time will be used for discussion and critique. In the interest of congregating for the least amount of time inside, you are expected to do the listening/viewing of each other's work before coming to class.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Stolpe: *Beginning Songwriting: Writing Your Own Lyrics, Melodies, and Chords*

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

- Computer for creating music in Reaper and Live.
- Memory Stick or Hard Drive for storing & backing up your projects.
- Ability to capture audio at high quality into the computer. This can be a USB microphone or combination of microphone and audio interface. Please see me if you need help with this.
- Some type of MIDI controller to enter and manipulate MIDI data in your DAW. Please see me if you need help with this.
- Studio quality headphones. Pick a pair from the list below. They don't need to be from Sweetwater.

GRADING:

COURSE GRADING SCALE (FOR 200 POINT COURSE)

Point Total	Letter Grade	% of Total Course Points
190-200	A	95-100%
180-189	A−	90-94%
174-179	B+	87-89%
166-173	B	83-86%
160-165	B−	80-82%
154-159	C+	77-79%
146-153	C	73-76%
140-145	C−	70-72%
134-139	D+	67-69%
126-133	D	63-66%
120-125	D−	60-62%
LESS THAN 120	F	LESS THAN 60%

https://www.ju.edu/registrar/grading-information.php

POLICIES

- **Attendance:** Students are asked to sign an attendance sheet (We will do this virtually since this is a pandemic) at the beginning of each class, although no formal penalty will be assessed for poor attendance. Due to the uncertainty that COVID-19 presents, extended absences may be necessary due to either illness or quarantine. Please work with the Student Life office to report your individual situation.
- **Make-Up Exams/Work:** Each student is directly responsible for absences and for making up missed work. Arrangements for making up exams can be made because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, or other unavoidable circumstances or University activities. The excused absences will not be counted against the attendance/participation grade either.
- **Using Electronic Devices:** The use of laptop computers, tablets, cell phones, or any other electronic devices during class is encouraged but you must ask for permission to make audio or video recordings of lectures.
- **Late work:** All work must be turned in on time unless arrangements were made previous to when they were due.
- **Academic Honesty:** Any act of academic misconduct in this course will result in an F for the assignment involved. To see examples of what counts as academic misconduct, as well as the university-level consequences for academic misconduct, look to JU's policy at www.ju.edu/academicintegrity.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

Jan 25-31 - Writing Assignment I Due January 31st
Introduction to the course and Reaper Videos.
What Inspires You? How Songwriters Write Read Chapters 1 & 2.
Start working on Song I
Feb 01-07 - Writing Assignment II Due February 7th
Song Form and Contrast, Basic Theory for Songwriters Read Chapters 3 & 4.
Reaper Videos, Continue working on Song I
Feb 08-14 - Song I Draft 1 Due February 14th
Melody, Harmony and Groove. Read Chapters 5 & 6. Reaper Videos.
Feb 15-21 - Song I Draft 2 Due February 14th
Songwriting Groups, Lyric Writing. Read Chapters 7 and 8. Reaper Videos.
Feb 22-28 – Song I Due February 28th
Next Steps, Read Chapter 9. Reaper Videos.
Mar 01-07 - Critiques Due March 7th
Reaper Videos, Processing Tutorials
Mar 08-14 - Writing Assignment III Due March 14th
Reaper Videos, Effects Tutorials
Mar 15-21 - Song II Draft 1 Due March 21st
Reaper Videos, Mixing Tutorials
Mar 22-28 - Song II Draft 2 Due March 28th
Reaper Videos, Mastering Tutorials
Mar 29-Apr 04 – Song II Due April 4th
Drum Programming in Live
Apr 05-11 - Critiques Due April 11th
MIDI Composing and Arranging in Live.
Apr 12-18 - Writing Assignment IV Due April 18th
Arranging and Audio Playground in Live
Apr 19-25 - Song III Draft 1 Due April 25th
Building Sounds in Live.
Apr 26-May 02 - Song III Draft 2 Due April 30th
Mixing in Live.
Song III Due May 5th

The above schedule is approximate. We may be ahead or behind a day or two. Check the Assignments on Canvas for due dates

ACADEMIC HONESTY

"Members of the Jacksonville University community are expected to foster and uphold the highest standards of honesty and integrity, which are foundations for the intellectual endeavors we engage in.

To underscore the importance of truth, honesty, and accountability, students and instructors should adhere to the following standard:

"On my honor as a student of Jacksonville University, I promise to uphold the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility in all my dealings with faculty, staff, and students."

Academic misconduct occurs when a student engages in an action that is deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest regarding any type of academic assignment that is intended to or results in an unfair academic advantage. In this context, the term "assignment" refers to any type of graded or ungraded work that is submitted for evaluation for any course. Academic misconduct includes but is not limited

to cheating, collusion, falsification, misrepresentation, unauthorized collaboration on assignments, copying another student's work, using or providing unauthorized notes or materials, turning in work not produced by the individual, and plagiarism. Furthermore, providing deceitful, fraudulent, or dishonest information during discussions of an academic manner with faculty are also examples of academic misconduct." (Jacksonville University Academic Catalog)

Throughout this course we will be reading and reporting about the work of others. All information that is not original to the student must be appropriately attributed in both presentations and written work. All students are expected to do their own work and give appropriate credit for all sources used in the process of preparing papers, presentations, and homework assignments. Group assignments will be graded based on the product of the work, although some adjustment may be made for participation. [If you have a question about whether or not collaboration is allowed, or how to cite a reference, please ask. It is always better to check than to be accused of an unintended violation of the academic honesty policy.] Violations of the academic honesty policy will be dealt with in accordance to university policies [Refer to current Academic Catalog "Academic Integrity and Misconduct"].

Course Level Penalties: A first offense may result in a failing grade for the assignment. Second offenses may result in failure in the course. Significantly egregious violations may result in expulsion from the university. When in doubt give credit for all information that did not come directly out of your head!

COVID-19 Accommodations

Students requesting accommodations due to COVID-19 must work with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office. This office is located on the third floor of the Davis Student Commons, room 336. The office can also be contacted through their website (https://www.ju.edu/disabilityservices/index.php). This includes any request to complete class remotely.

DISABILITY STATEMENT

Students with a documented disability requesting classroom accommodations or modifications, either permanent or temporary, resulting from the disability are encouraged to register with the Disability Support Services (DSS) office. This office will assist in recommending accommodations that eliminate barriers in academic coursework and/or guide you through the different supportive mechanisms that we have to offer. This office is located on the third floor of the Davis Student Commons, room 336. The office can also be contacted through their website (https://www.ju.edu/disabilityservices/index.php).

Note: Students are encouraged to register with the DSS office at the beginning of the term and/or prior (if/when possible), as accommodations are not provided retroactively.