SYLLABUS & COURSE OUTLINE - ADAM BIGELSEN
Fall 2015 - <u>DART</u> 452

Analog/Digital Audio Production
Sierra Nevada College

Course Code   DART 452 Section 1
Course Title   Analog/Digital Audio Production (3 credits)
Term and Year   Fall 2015
Course Reference Number   80186
Instructor   Adam Bigelsen
Phone   530-510-6307
Email   abigelsen@sierranevada.edu
Class Meeting Time   Wednesday – 7:00pm – 9:45pm
Location   Holman Arts 216

Course Description: Students study analog and digital audio production through history, listening exercises, and hands-on recording activities. Students experiment with recording techniques, to experience and understand the recording process first hand. History discussed begins with early audio recording and ends with the present digital age of recording. Final project will include a music CD produced by the students themselves.

Student Outcomes
Students will understand midi and analog recording and editing. They will improve their overall proficiency in audio production. Students will be able to use digital audio to compose a variety of musical pieces with different styles. Students will gain knowledge of the historical aspects of audio production from the earliest recordings, to the present.

Methods of Assessing Student outcomes
Weekly meetings, progress on specific recording tasks, consistency and improvement of skills, technical development, final recording project.

Instructional strategies
Listening exercises.
Class discussions
Whole group and individual instruction.

Attendance
Due to the experiential nature of this class, your attendance is essential. Please note that 30% of your grade can only be credited to when you are in class.

Homework

You will have digital homework assigned for most classes. Complete assignments will be given full credit. Homework that is turned in after the due date will be down-graded by 20% for each date it is late.

Class requirements
Students are required to turn in, and present a short research project on an artist(s) of their own choice.

Students must bring their own instruments, and headphones, to class every day.

Students will produce a music cd.

Grading:
Class attendance and participation	250 points
Listening Exercises	250 points
Assignments	250 points
Final Project	250 points

A = 90-100 %
B = 80-89 %
C = 70-79%
D = 60 - 69%
F = Below 60%

Sanctions for Cheating and/or Plagiarism

The Honor Code

The faculty of SNC believes students must be held to high standards of integrity in all aspects of college life in order to promote the educational mission of the College and to encourage respect for the rights of others. Each student brings to the SNC community unique skills, talents, values and experiences which, when expressed within the community, contribute to the quality of the educational environment and the growth and development of the individual. Students share with members of the faculty, administration and staff the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment conducive to learning and personal development, where actions are guided by mutual respect, integrity, responsibility and trust. The faculty and students alike must make diligent efforts to ensure high standards are upheld by their colleagues and peers as well as themselves. Therefore faculty and students accept responsibility for maintaining these standards at Sierra Nevada College and are obligated to comply with its regulations and procedures, which they are expected to read and understand.

Consequences of Violating the Student Honor Code

SNC students and faculty share the responsibility for maintaining an environment of academic honesty. Thus, all are responsible for knowing and abiding by the SNC Faculty/Student Honor Code published in the current SNC Catalog. Faculty are responsible for presenting the Honor Code and the consequences of violating it to students at the start of their classes AND for reporting all incidences of academic dishonesty to the Provost. Students are responsible for knowing what constitutes CHEATING, PLAGIARISM and FABRICATION and for refraining from these and other forms of academic dishonesty. Violations of the Honor Code become part of a student's academic record.

1st Offense: Student receives a zero for assignment/exam and counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

2nd Offense: Student fails course and receives counseling with faculty on the honor code, consequences for violating the honor code, and the value of academic honesty in learning.

3rd Offense: Student is expelled.

ADA Accommodations

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, students with a documented disability are eligible for support services and accommodations. If a student wishes to request an accommodation, please contact the Director of Academic Support Services, Henry Conover, at (775) 831-1314 x7534, hconover@sierranevada.edu or go to the OASIS offices on the third floor of Prim Library within the first week of the semester.

The SNC Email System

The SNC email system is the official communication vehicle among students, faculty members and administrative staff and is designed to protect the confidentiality of student information as required by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 Act (FERPA). Students should check their college email accounts daily during the school year.

Students have a right to forward their SNC e-mail to another e-mail account (for example, @hotmail or @gmail). However, confidentiality of student information protected by FERPA cannot be guaranteed for SNC e-mail forwarded to an outside vendor. Having email redirected does not absolve a student from the responsibilities associated with official communication sent to his or her SNC email account.

Course Outline and Assignments

Week 1: Introduction to Garageband and Overview
- New Song/ Creating a new song file
- New Tracks; Instrument Tracks vs. Real Tracks
- Loop Browser overview
- Piano Roll/ MIDI overview
- Mixer Window and Plugins overview
- Project Choice and Commitment:
Original Song with lyrics
Original Instrumental Song
Studio Re-creation
Week 2: Beginning a Song
- Choose a session style (loop-based, scratch template, or import template)
- Choose Tempo

- Saving session/ file management
- Recording a guide or scratch track

Week 3: Building a Song
- Song forms, standard and non-standard
- Choosing a music style/ changing styles
- Examples of song styles/ music styles

Week 4: Basic Tracks
- Building a virtual Drum Track/ MIDI and quantization
- Recording Live Drums/ Directing a session drummer
- Using/ Combining Loops
- Tracking Bass/ MIDI Bass
- Introduction to comping

Week 5: Music Beds, Part 1
- Guitar Beds (acoustic vs. electric)
- Methods of recording guitars (acoustic and electric)
- Keyboard beds/ choosing sounds
- Arranging overview; How to get less out of more

Week 6: Music Beds, Part 2
- More comping techniques
- Melody and Counter-Melody
- Overview of Instrument Styles
- Intro to Stereo Imaging

Week 7: Lyrics
- Poetry and Meter
- To Rhyme or not to Rhyme
- Choosing the right words and grammar
- Thesaurus and Rhyming Dictionary
- Art vs. Angst

Week 8: Tracking Vocals
- Mics and mic placement
- Proximity/ mic technique
- Pop filter/ environment
- Vocal comping and Pitch Correction

Week 9: Background Vocals
- Follow Harmonies
- Harmony Stacks
- Cutting and Pasting
- Pitch Correction

Week 10: Getting Finished
- Percussion

- Does that part work?
- Project Management
- Play it yourself vs. Call a Pro

Week 11: Mixing, Part 1
- Cleaning and editing
- Stereo panning and imaging
- EQ, effects, and aux returns

Week 12: Mixing, Part 2
- Level balancing/ balance styles
- Stems and remixes
- Bouncing and exporting finished tracks

Week 13: Finalize Projects and presentations
Week 14: Finalize Projects and presentations
Week 15: Finalize Projects and presentations

The Mission Statement:

Sierra Nevada College graduates will be educated to be scholars of and contributors to a sustainable world. Sierra Nevada College combines the liberal arts and professional preparedness through an interdisciplinary curriculum that emphasizes entrepreneurial thinking and environmental, social, economic and educational sustainability.

The Core Themes:

Liberal Arts   **Professional Preparedness**

Entrepreneurial Thinking   **Sustainability**