

# BUTTE COLLEGE

## COURSE OUTLINE

### I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

**MUS 53 - Introduction to Recording Software Applications**

**3 Unit(s)**

**Prerequisite(s):** MUS 51

**Recommended Prep:** NONE

**Transfer Status:** CSU

25.5 hours Lecture

76.5 hours Lab

This course is an introduction to audio recording software applications, such as Apple Logic Pro and Avid Pro Tools, as well as other industry standard recording softwares. Students will learn to record, edit, mix, and export audio recordings in these software applications.

### II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Utilize modern recording software applications, including Apple Logic Pro and Avid Pro Tools to compose, record and edit audio.
- B. Record digital compositions with Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI).
- C. Arrange and mix audio and MIDI.
- D. Program drums in recording software.
- E. Manipulate tempo and timing of audio files.
- F. Plan and complete recording projects of 3-5 minutes utilizing audio recording software.

### III. COURSE CONTENT

#### **A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule**

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Audio interfaces, pre-amps, mixers and hardware	1.50
2. Introduction to digital editing	1.50
3. Recording and editing MIDI events	2.00
4. Basics of drum programming	3.00
5. Tempo and digital audio editing	1.50
6. Music arranging	1.50
7. Preparing for the audio mix	1.50
8. Audio mixing	2.00
9. Automation, and digital audio editing	2.50
10. Setting up a home studio	1.00
11. Tracking, mixing and exporting audio projects	2.50
12. Using loops, software instruments and MIDI	2.50
13. Integrating live instruments	2.50
Total Hours	25.50

#### Lab

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Make music with Logic now	1.50

2. Recording audio	1.50
3. Editing audio	1.50
4. Recording with MIDI devices	1.50
5. Recording and editing MIDI events	1.50
6. Programming drums	1.50
7. Manipulating tempo	1.50
8. Arranging and preparing for the mix	1.50
9. Mixing	1.50
10. Automating the mix and using controller surfaces	1.50
11. Scoring movies	1.50
12. Trouble shooting and optimization	1.50
13. Recording projects	30.00
14. Review projects, methods and information learned in class	4.50
15. Getting to know Pro Tools	2.00
16. Creating your first session	2.00
17. Making your first audio recording	2.00
18. Importing media into your session	2.00
19. Making your first MIDI recording	2.00
20. Selecting and Navigation, basic editing techniques	4.00
21. Basic mixing techniques, finishing your work	4.00
22. Hands on: Project introduction and setup	2.00
23. Music hands on project	2.00
24. Post hands on project	2.00
Total Hours	76.50

#### **IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Collaborative Group Work
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Discussion
- E. Demonstrations
- F. Multimedia Presentations
- G. Lab

#### **V. METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Projects
- B. Class participation
- C. Practical Evaluations
- D. Exams

#### **VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Reading Assignments
  - 1. Read Chapter 1 of the Logic Pro training book, complete the chapter 1 lesson from accompanying DVD, and turn in the finished chapter 1 lesson.
  - 2. Read the article provided by the instructor on making drum beats, and be prepared to

compose a drum beat in class.

B. Writing Assignments

1. Research electronic music genres, and write a 3 page paper describing the rhythmic, harmonic and textural elements of 3 major genres.
2. Write a 3 page paper describing the function of the main pieces of gear used in a project studio. Items should include an audio interface, MIDI controller, computer software, pre-amps, and microphones.

C. Out-of-Class Assignments

1. Research and study various digital audio workstations (DAW) that are standard in the industry. Discuss which are most used in professional studios and why on the Blackboard discussion board.
2. Attend a concert and report to the class the elements of the live sound set-up, including microphone placement, Audio consoles used, and critique the overall sound.

VII. **RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION**

Textbooks:

- A. Cook, Frank D. Pro Tools 101, an Introduction to Pro Tools 10. Cengage Learning, 2012.
- B. Nahmani, David. Apple Pro Training Series: Logic Pro 9 and Logic Express 9. Peachpit Press, 2012.

**Created/Revised by:** David Elke

**Date:** 03/04/2013