Undergraduate Course Syllabus

IT 205: Digital Music

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

IT 100 (COCE Only)

Course Description

This course introduces students to information technology and the music business. The primary theme of the course is to understand how information technology has transformed the music industry in recent years. The course is part lecture and part lab work. During lectures, students will learn about topics such as waveform audio, data compression and sampling, digital signal processors and sound cards, audio file formats, MIDI, e-collaboration, and e-business. During lab work, students will learn how to use software packages to compose, record, and mix music; to put music on a CD; to design a CD package; and to use the internet to market and distribute music CDs. The course includes a project that will culminate in the creation of a professional CD suitable for distribution. The course is designed for students who have an interest in music and information technology—for example, sound engineering, song writing, or executive leadership in the music industry. An ability to play an instrument is not required.

Course Outcomes

- Knowledge of waveform audio and audio file format standards
- Knowledge of data compression and sampling
- Knowledge of the musical instrument digital interface (MIDI)
- Knowledge of e-marketing, e-distribution, and e-commerce
- Skills to create original music
- Skills to record and mix musical sounds with a computer
- Knowledge of recording and mixing software
- Skills to produce a professional CD package
- Skills to promote and distribute CDs via the internet and e-commerce
- Awareness of copyright and intellectual property rights and related ethical issues
- Understanding of music distribution channels and the impacts of digital technology

Required Materials

Reaper (software)

Version 4.581 or later

Cockos Incorporated

http://www.reaper.fm/

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place in Blackboard on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions forum in Blackboard so that your questions and the instructor's answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	8	35	280
Quiz	1	50	50
Assignment	1	20	20
Final Project			
Final Project Milestone One	1	75	75
Final Project Milestone Two	1	75	75
Final Project Milestone Three	1	75	75
Final Project Milestone Four	1	75	75
Final Project Milestone Five	1	75	75
Final Project Submission	1	275	275
		Total Course Points:	1000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Undergraduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points	Points Equivalent Lower	Points Equivalent Upper
		Total Points: 1,000		
A	93-100	4	930	1000
A-	90-92	3.67	900	929
B+	87-89	3.33	870	899
B	83-86	3	830	869
B-	80-82	2.67	800	829
C+	77-79	2.33	770	799
C	73-76	2	730	769
C-	70-72	1.67	700	729
D+	67-69	1.33	670	699
D	60-66	1	600	669
F	0-59	0	0	599
I	Incomplete			
IF	Incomplete/Failure*			
IP	In Progress (past end of term)			
W	Withdrawn			

*Please refer to the policy page for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Course Information area in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics folder.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Learning Modules area in Blackboard contains one module folder for each week of the course. All reading and assignment information can be found in the folders. Assignments and discussion board posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module in Blackboard.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction and Basic Concepts
	1-1 Discussion: Basic Concepts and Terminology
	1-2 Final Project Review
	1-3 Module One Quiz
	1-4 Assignment: Installation of Software
2	Studio Basics
	2-1 Discussion: Studio Design Basics and Signal Flow
	2-2 Final Project Milestone One: Audio Signal Flow Chart
3	MIDI, Music Composition, and Sequencing
	3-1 Discussion: MIDI as a Creative Tool
	3-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Plan

4	Audio Recording I
	4-1 Discussion: Beginning to Plan the Final Project
	4-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Composing and Recording, Part I
5	Audio Recording II
	5-1 Discussion: Stereo Mixes
	5-2 Final Project Milestone Four: Composing and Recording, Part II
6	Producing a Professional-Looking CD Package
	6-1 Discussion: Common Consumer Products and CD Packaging
	6-2 Final Project Milestone Five: Composing and Recording, Part III
7	Introduction to Marketing and Distribution
	7-1 Discussion: Marketing for the Independent Musician
	7-2 Final Project Submission: Final Composition
8	Digital Distribution Over the Internet
	8-1 Discussion: Digital Distribution and the Independent Artist
	8-2 Discussion: Reflection (a non-graded activity)

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to post to the Blackboard discussion board during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a posting to the discussion board during the first week of class, the student is automatically withdrawn from the course for non-participation. Review the full attendance policy.

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the full late assignment policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Guide to Student Success

Review the guide to student success.

Diversity and Disability Statement

The College of Online and Continuing Education (COCE) at SNHU values diversity and inclusion. SNHU strives to create inclusive and welcoming academic environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that present barriers to your inclusion, please notify the Disability Resource Center (DRC) as soon as possible. We will work with you and your instructor to address needs and concerns.

We encourage all students with known or suspected physical, medical, sensory, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in order to assess learning needs and take advantage of available academic accommodations and support services. We look forward to hearing from you. Our contact information is below.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

(866) 305-9430

(877) 520-8916 (fax)

drc@snhu.edu

We welcome COCE students, faculty, and staff to consult with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) on disability-related questions or concerns.

Academic Honesty Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the full academic honesty policy.

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the full copyright policy.

SNHU College of Online and Continuing Education Withdrawal Policy

Review the full withdrawal policy.

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the policy page.