

**MUS 1360 Intro to Music Technology | Syllabus**  
**WILL BE UPDATED**

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Office Hours:  
TBA  
Class times: **Class # 18583**  
M,W, F Period 3 (9:35 AM) (MUB 147)

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### Course Description

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MUS1360 introduces the fundamentals of music technology in the context of its historical and cultural use. Scientific foundations of acoustics, hearing, and digital audio as well as technical skills for music production will be addressed; students will work on practical applications of these concepts and techniques. Furthermore, the instructor will encourage students to critically explore cultural aspects of music technology.

### Required Textbooks

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Hosken, Dan. *An Introduction to Music Technology*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2015.  
Publisher link [here](#). Other example [here](#).

(to visit the textbook's website, click [here](#).)

### Required Materials

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USB flash drive  
Google drive account  
Headphones/earphones

### Course Content

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Introduction to sound, audio, digital audio editing and processing, MIDI, music notation, and website design for musicians.

### Course Objectives

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Provide students definitions, critical knowledge, and practical experience of fundamental music technology topics, encompassing the items described in the Course Content.

## **Course Expectations**

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### *The students should:*

Read the Syllabus and all announcements and assignments thoroughly.

Reserve a reasonable amount of time for homework (practicing, reading, listening, etc.) according to the demands of the course. Normally students need 4 to 6 hours a week for this class.

Maintain a professional, respectful attitude towards other students and your instructor.

Actively engage in every class, paying attention to the instructor and to other colleagues' activities.

Not spend the class looking at their computers, unless instructed to do so. The instructor of this course is a live person, that exists outside the computer!

Follow their progress on Canvas. Access [elearning.ufl.edu](http://elearning.ufl.edu) for more information.

Notify your instructor in case of any difficulty with the course—the instructor is here to help you!

### *The instructor should:*

Present content considering different types of learners.

Maintain a professional, respectful attitude towards students.

Carefully listen to students' questions and demands, and be prepared to help them to learn.

Inspire students to enjoy all the activities of the course, and ultimately, music itself!

Provide feedback regarding student's progress.

## **Evaluation information**

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### *Students*

1. Written exams – May consist of quizzes, exams, and or special class assignments. Please see below one example question from a written exam:

The human ear can be divided into three basic parts: the outer ear, the middle ear, and the inner ear. The inner ear consists of the cochlea, which transforms mechanical energy into:

- a. kinetic energy
- b. frequency impulses
- c. neural impulses
- d. thermal energy

2. Projects – Practical activities to be realized using specific software and techniques discussed in class.

3. Reading reflections – Half a page text written as a response to the readings.
4. Assignments/homework – Mostly will consist of suggested activities from the textbook.
5. Attendance – Please see information in the grading section, below.

N.B.: Communication is not only writing/saying something; it is also what the reader/listener UNDERSTANDS from what has been written/said! With that in mind, students must ensure to clearly communicate their ideas, projects, responses, and answers.

### *Instructor*

1. One-two instructor/course evaluations per semester. Students may keep anonymity.
2. Students are welcome to inform the instructor, by email or during office hours, of any suggestions, complaints, and critiques.
3. Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester and students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

### **Grading**

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1. Written exams/quizzes = 20%
2. Projects = 50%
3. Reading reflections = 10%
4. Assignments/homework = 10%
5. Attendance = 10%

Each class missed without a documented reason will deduct 10% of the total attendance grade (1% of the final grade). If the attendance grade reaches 0 the student automatically receives an E grade (failure).

*\* More about attendance and other details:*

- A documented reason for missing a class might be: medical report, concerts or special events, and death in the family.
- A documented reason for missing a class might NOT BE: broken alarms, tiredness, alligator in the way, or traffic.

- Students must inform (via email) the instructor about an absence at least 24 hours before the beginning of class.
- Special cases should be informed to the instructor, who might consider other reasons for excusing absences, following the norms of the University of Florida.
- No late work will be accepted unless one reason, from the ones presented above, is given.
- Tardiness is not allowed. The class begins exactly at the allotted time.
- Attendance will be verified in the beginning of every class.
- Students are responsible for learning the content of a missed class, and might (or should!) use office hours to prevent staying behind.

\* *More information about attendance [here](#).*

## Grading Scale

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Grade	Percent	Grade Points
A	93.4-100	4.00
A-	90.0-93.3	3.67
B+	86.7-89.9	3.33
B	83.4-86.6	3.00
B-	80.0-83.3	2.67
C+	76.7-79.9	2.33
C	73.4-76.6	2.00
C-	70.0-73.3	1.67
D+	66.7-69.9	1.33
D	63.4-66.6	1.00
D-	60.0-63.3	0.67
E	0-59.9	0.00

\* *More information on grades [here](#).*

## Course Schedule

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This schedule may be modified at any moment by the instructor, who will inform students within a reasonable time span.

*Unit 1: Terminology of DAWs and Implications of Music Technology in various professions.*

*Unit 2: Digital Audio Workstations*

- Assignments: Group compositions, producing music on the spot (class participation). Group compositions will first be done on Garageband in class, then Logic Pro in class, and then ProTools in class and outside of class.

*Unit 3: Notation Software (Finale)*

- Assignments: Two 4-measure compositions done in class with professor's assistance. Two 8-measure compositions done in class and outside of class. One 16-measure assignment done in class and outside of class.

*Unit 5: PowerPoint Presentation & Website for Artists*

- Assignments: Create a 5-10 slide research presentation on a music technology product and present on it in class. Presentation should incorporate the facets of PowerPoint which were learned in class. Due on the 10th week of class.
- Create a 20 slide research presentation on a musician who uses music technology (i.e., should contain, brief bio, contributions to music, types of technology, method of creating music, implications for you as a musician) – Due on the 12<sup>th</sup> week of class.
- Create your website that appropriately communicates your creative professionalism as a musician. Present in class for discussion.

## **Weekly Calendar**

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**WEEK 1:** Syllabus overview, Creative Space, Cultivating Your Artistic Identity (slides) & Music Technology (slides), Listening, Demonstration on Garageband (Assignment #1 video tutorial on Canvas. Assignment due Sunday at 11:50 p.m.) Audio Discrimination Assignment #1 (Submit on Moodle):

- Listen to your favorite song and indicate the following for instruments and vocals:
  - Panning of instruments and vocals?
  - Which instruments were recorded? How many vocalists? Over-dubbed by same vocalist or multiple vocalists?

- Which instruments are quantized (if applicable)?
- Which instruments are mono? Stereo?

**WEEK 2:** Functions of DAW (i.e., quantization, velocity, EQ, MIDI tracking, sound library, panning, balance, compression, tempo, drummer), shortcuts, MIDI tracking piano, bass, drums, percussion, melody. Demonstration on Logic Pro X (Assignment #2 video tutorial on Canvas. Assignment due Sunday at 11:50 p.m.) - 16 measure + diatonic chord progression + rhythm section + melody/improvisation + 4/4. Audio Discrimination Assignment #2 (Submit on Canvas): Dr. Ruiz will assign a song to listen to for the assignment.

◦ Listen to your favorite song and indicate the following for instruments and vocals:

- Panning of instruments and vocals?
- Which instruments were recorded? How many vocalists? Over-dubbed by same

vocalist or multiple vocalists?

- Which instruments are quantized (if applicable)?
- Which instruments are mono? Stereo?

**WEEK 3:** Automation techniques, Audio FX, mixing techniques per genre, showcasing Assignment #2. (Assignment #3 video tutorial on Moodle. Assignment due Sunday at 11:50 p.m.) Sections from a cover tune of choice + diatonic chord progression + rhythm section + melody/improvisation + time signature of choice + different genre from previous assignment.

**WEEK 4:** Vocal Tracking, Overdubbing, Auto-tuning, Recording Live Instruments, Channel Input. Demonstration on Logic Pro X. (Assignment #4 video tutorial on Canvas. Assignment due Sunday at 11:50 p.m.) - Minimum of three part harmony with over dubs (6 tracks minimum) performed on vocals (you can record someone else singing or sing yourself) + Record vocal percussion (3 tracks minimum). Must contain sung melody, harmony, and rhythm. Must contain a section with lyrics. Must contain vocal scatting improvisation. All previously discussed audio engineering techniques are to be implemented tastefully.

**WEEK 5 - 6:** Assignment #5. In-class demonstration on Logic Pro X. Vocal tracking + Instrument tracking + MIDI tracking. Original Composition. Students produce their own single. Students demonstrate progress in-class and Instructor and students provide compliments and constructive feedback.

**WEEK 7:** Completed original single with implemented all recording, mixing, editing, and mastering processes. Students present a 6-slide PPT presentation on a Music Technology of their choice. Must include: Name of technology, its application, price, where to find and buy, which celebrities use the product, what is its application for music education? music business? music & worship? music performance? How would you use it for your vocational calling? Include pictures and video link. If you have the technology, bring it to class for show and tell. Presentation should be no more than 5 minutes in length.

**WEEK 8:** Introduction to Finale. Setting up the session. Navigation. Lyrics. Assignment #1 (“Mary Had A Little Lamb”) Video demonstration.

**WEEK 9:** Hyperscribe. Assignment #2 (16 measures + Minor Key + Diatonic Chord Progressions + write for rhythm section and two melodic instruments in counterpoint + incorporating articulation, expressions, etc.)

**WEEK 10:** Assignment #3. Arrange for a cover tune of their choice. Include rhythm section + wind or string accompaniment. Introduction to ProTools (navigation) Assignment multi-tracking audio and MIDI a short 16-measure piece.

**WEEK 11:** Film Scoring a Commercial or Trailer. Music to Visual Media Slide Presentation for students. Students also working on their Finale Original Composition. Introduction to ProTools (navigation) Assignment multi-tracking audio and MIDI a short 16-measure piece.

**WEEK 12:** Film Scoring a Commercial or Trailer. Assignment #2. Students also working on their Finale Original Composition.

**WEEK 13:** Mixing Board. Students also working on their Finale Original Composition.

**WEEK 14:** Final Composition showcase to the class review and refine.

**WEEK 15:** Final Composition due on Sunday 11:50pm.

### **Computer Lab Hours**

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In order to have a reasonable amount of time to work at the school computers, students should frequently check the computer lab hours, as it may change on a weekly basis.

**Software piracy is illegal. Please follow the university policies on computer usage: <http://www.it.ufl.edu/policies/acceptable-use/summary/>**

## Academic Honesty

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UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## Other Resources

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### *Health and Wellness*

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)  
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies). <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>

### *Academic Resources*

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu. <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling. <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring. <http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>



Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.  
<http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Student Complaints Campus:

[https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF\\_Complaints\\_policy.pdf](https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf)

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.