

MUS 1360 Intro to Music Technology | Syllabus

Instructor: Dr. Jose Valentino Ruiz, Ph.D.

Email: jruiz@arts.ufl.edu

Website: www.josevalentino.com

Office Hours:

TBA

Class times: **Class # 17982**

M,W, F Period 3 (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM) (MUB
147)

Course Description

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

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

USB flash drive

Google drive account

Headphones/earphones

Course Content

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

Course Objectives

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

Course Expectations

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 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

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

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

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](#).*

Weekly Calendar

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1	Syllabi & Class Overview	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on DAWs and Production	Chris Shelton - Lecture on DAWs and Production
Week 2	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on DAWs and Production	Chris Shelton (Lab)	Chris Shelton (MIDI project due in the evening). Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 3	Dr. Ruiz (Class Showcase)	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on DAWs and Production (Live Instrument Recording Techniques)	Dr. Ruiz (Lab)
Week 4	Dr. Ruiz (lab)	Dr. Ruiz (lab)	Chris Shelton - lab (MIDI w/ live instrument project due in the evening). Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 5	Dr. Ruiz (Class Showcase)	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on DAWs and Production (Vocal Recording & Mixing)	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on DAWs and Production (Vocal Recording & Mixing) & Lab
Week 6	Dr. Ruiz (lab)	Dr. Ruiz (lab)	Dr. Ruiz (lab) - MIDI w/vocals project due in the evening. Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 7	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on Film Scoring Techniques I	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on Film Scoring Techniques I	Dr. Ruiz (lab)
Week 8	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Lab (Film Score #1 for commercial project due in the Evening). Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 9	No Class	No Class	No Class
Week 10	Dr. Ruiz (Class Showcase)	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on Film Scoring Techniques II	Dr. Ruiz (lab)
Week 11	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Lab (Film Score #2 - Movie Scene due in the evening). Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 12	Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on Mastering	Original Single Showcase	Original Single Showcase
Week 13	Chris Shelton - Lecture on Finale Notation Software Navigation	Chris Shelton & Dr. Ruiz - Lecture on Finale Notation Software Navigation	Lab (Finale - "Mary Had a Little" assignment due in the evening). Submit on Canvas and personal website.
Week 14	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab (Lead Sheet Assignment due in the evening)
Week 15	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab	Dr. Ruiz & Chris Shelton - Lab (Final Composition due in the evening) 5
Week 16	Dr. Ruiz - Finale Composition Showcase	Dr. Ruiz - Finale Composition Showcase	

Course Schedule

Unit 1: MIDI, Techniques for the Recording Arts & Sciences, Website

Unit 2: Mixing, Editing, Live Instrumental Recording Techniques

Unit 3: Vocal Recording Techniques

Unit 4: Film Scoring for Visual Media

Unit 6: Mastering Techniques

Unit 7: Notation Software Navigation

Computer Lab Hours

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

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

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact 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

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/) 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.