

Syllabus

MUS 360, MIDI and Finale – Spring 2017

Nicholas Lambson, Instructor

Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-12:50

Nicholas.Lambson@humboldt.edu; x5432; Office: Room 126

Office hours will be announced to the class as soon as times are established. When announced, students should write this information in the space provided here:

Course description:

This course covers electronic music creation in its many forms. Students will study the basic evolution of electronic music; a variety of relevant hardware components; MIDI theory; and the various uses of MIDI software programs. Students will apply this knowledge to practical applications including teaching, learning, and music creation.

This course will impart the knowledge and practical skills to successfully set up, navigate, and utilize various MIDI software programs. Students will become fluent with the notational software program *Finale*.

Lectures will discuss and demonstrate concepts, hardware, and software each week. Class time will also often be spent in the Music Department Computer Lab, working on assignments.

Regular student assignments will be given and must be kept in the “Student Folder.”

Occasionally, student projects will be presented and discussed.

Required and recommended texts, readers, or other reading materials for this course include:

Required:

Finale 2014

Band in a Box

Garageband

Ableton Live 9

Recommended:

Finale! A Trailblazer's Guide

Electronic materials:

- Removable storage devices and/or cloud backup are recommended.
- Assignments, lecture slides, important links, and other content are available on Moodle.
- Lecture slides will be available as Powerpoint documents. MS Office is available for student use in campus computer labs. Free alternatives include Google Docs, Open Office, and Polaris.

Other requirements:

Completion of MUS 110 or equivalent is necessary for successful completion of this course.

Some background in music is recommended.

Computer fluency is required.

Basic Mac proficiency is recommended.

Access to the Internet, Moodle, HSU email, and the campus computer labs.

Keycard access will be granted by the instructor.

Access to the Music Department's "Student Folder"

Music Department Server address is `afp://ah-s20901`

Course Requirements:

Assignments: The majority of assignments will be based on the multiple software programs covered in this class. However, some written work will be given as well.

Midterm Project: This larger project will demonstrate intermediate-level fluency with programs and material covered up to that point.

Final Project: This is a large-scale project, meant to demonstrate a semester worth of skills. Some project ideas will be provided, but students are encouraged to choose a project based on how they are likely to use music technology in their lives.

Written Exam: This is a cumulative written exam, which will sum up all of the theory covered over the course of the semester.

Grading Information:

60%	Assignments
10%	Midterm Project
15%	Final Project
15%	Written Exam

Graded material is calculated using a 100-point scale, which is converted to a letter grade at the end of the semester.

Subject to change with fair notice.

Final Exam Period: Monday, May 8th 10:20-12:10

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential for successful completion of this course. Students may miss two classes unexcused. Attendance is taken at the beginning of every class, so please be on time. The third unexcused absence will result in the final grade being lowered one grade letter step (eg, a B+ becomes a B, or a B becomes a B-). The fifth unexcused absence will lower the final grade one full letter. Some absences may be waived at the discretion of the instructor for medical issues, family emergencies, etc. Documentation may be required for serious issues. Specific assignments will be given each class session. It is the student's responsibility to keep up if a class has been missed.

Late Assignments: All late work is subject to a 10-point penalty per 24-hour period.

"Make-up" Exams: In-class exams, activities, and presentations cannot be made up without a serious or compelling reason and documentation may be required. If there is sufficient cause to arrange for a make up, arrangements must be made as far in advance as possible.

Music Department Computer Lab

Use of the lab is restricted to music majors and other students registered in certain courses. Do not give your key card to anyone else, or give anyone your passwords. The lab is a shared workspace, so please be courteous to other users, and leave your station clean and set up for the next user. A lab monitor is available during posted hours for technical problems only. Please make a note of these hours when established, and try to keep questions to these hours. For any other classwork related problems, contact me via email or come to office hours. Making appointments with me during my scheduled office hours is advisable.

Music Technology Lab – Room 109B

Use of the lab is restricted to students registered in certain courses. The equipment in this room may be used for any projects for the class, though projects requiring recording get priority. The Music Department Computer Lab can be used for basic editing and any other projects that do not require recording. The instructor will not regulate lab usage unless problems arise. Students may work in pairs or small groups, but only with other students in the class. Any other individual wanting to enter that space must have instructor consent. No equipment may be removed from the 109 Tech Lab without consent. Unauthorized use or abuse of the equipment may result in revoking of privileges for one or more people. In severe cases, the university may seek financial restitution. This equipment is for everyone to use and share, so remember that your actions in this dedicated space affect everyone else. As a final note, students must be extremely careful with volume levels in this room; use headphones while classes and rehearsals occupy the 109 classroom. If the speakers absolutely must be used while a class is in session next door, PLEASE use keep the volume low; these speakers will give an accurate representation of your recording even at low levels. For more extended listening, nighttime use is required, and encouraged!

Keycard Access

All students registered as music majors automatically receive access to the Music Department Computer Lab, practice rooms, and many classroom doors. Access to the 109B Tech Lab will

require additional approval by the instructor. Students will need to make sure that they have access to all of the above spaces as soon as possible. The music department office has the required forms, and you can submit your signed forms there as well.

This course explicitly contributes to students' acquisition of skills and knowledge relevant to University Learning Outcomes:

Music Department Program Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1: Students will demonstrate the ability to hear, identify, and work conceptually with the elements of music - rhythm, melody, harmony, and structure.
- 2: Students will demonstrate familiarity with, and in ability to perform a wide selection of musical literature representing principal eras, genres, and cultural sources.
- 3: Students will demonstrate ability and performing areas appropriate to the students needs, interests, and degree path.
- 4: Students will demonstrate effective English writing skills.

Humboldt State University Student Learning Outcomes:

HSU graduates will have demonstrated:

- Effective communication through written and oral modes.
- Critical and creative thinking skills in acquiring a broad base of knowledge and applying it to complex issues
- Competence in a major area of study.
- Appreciation for and understanding of an expanded world perspective by engaging respectfully with a diverse range of individuals, communities and viewpoints.

HSU graduates will be prepared to:

- Succeed in their chosen careers.
- Take responsibility for identifying personal goals and practicing lifelong learning.
- Pursue social justice, promote environmental responsibility, and improve economic conditions in their workplaces and communities.

Policies:

Academic honesty: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding academic honesty. For more information, visit: [Academic Honesty Policy](#) or [HSU Catalog](#)

Students with Disabilities: Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations should contact the Student Disability Resource Center in House 71, 826-4678 (voice) or 826-5392 (TDD). Some accommodations may take up to several weeks to arrange. [Student Disability Resource Center](#)

Add/Drop policy: Students are responsible for knowing the University policy, procedures, and schedule for dropping or adding classes. [Schedule Adjustments \(Adding or Dropping\)](#)

Emergency evacuation: Please review the evacuation plan for the classroom (posted on the orange signs) , and review [Campus Emergency Preparedness](http://studentaffairs.humboldt.edu/emergencyops/campus_emergency_preparedness.php) http://studentaffairs.humboldt.edu/emergencyops/campus_emergency_preparedness.php for information on campus Emergency Procedures. During an emergency, information can be found campus conditions at: 826-INFO or [Emergency Conditions](#)

Attendance and disruptive behavior: Students are responsible for knowing policy regarding attendance and disruptive behavior: [Class Attendance and Disruptive Behavior](#)