

**MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology (3 credits)**

Spring 2010 • TTh • 4:00-5:20 PM

Whitney 120 • Music Department • Fine Arts Division

course site: [proferickson.com/cke/musc2430](http://proferickson.com/cke/musc2430)

class wiki: [scmusictech.net](http://scmusictech.net)

**Instructor and Contact Information**

Dr. Christian Erickson

Office: Whitney 107

Office hours: TTh 1:00 PM-2:00 PM (additional hours by appointment)

(307) 674-6446, extension 3050

[chris@proferickson.com](mailto:chris@proferickson.com) (preferred method of contact)

**Course Description**

This course explores further concepts and applications of music technology initially studied in MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology. Topics will focus on intermediate techniques in MIDI sequencing, audio signal processing, synthesis, sampling, multi-track recording, and music engraving.

**Prerequisites**

MUSC 1415 Intro to Music Technology or permission of the instructor.

**Co-requisites**

None

**Purpose**

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the latest methods, software programs, and computer hardware associated with the rapidly changing field of music technology. MUSC 2430 Intermediate Music Technology is a required course for students pursuing the Certificate of Completion in Music Technology, or it may be applied as a general elective for any Associate's degree at Sheridan College.

**Course Format**

Lecture

**Grading**

Letter

**Texts/Materials**

- Williams, David Brian, and Peter Richard Webster. *Experiencing Music Technology* (Updated 3rd edition). Boston, MA: Schirmer, 2008. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-565-543
- Sennheiser HD 202 Headphones (available at the campus bookstore) or other over-the-ear headphones
- Pens, pencils, erasers, notebook, etc.
- Access to a computer with an internet connection and a browser and equipped with a CD-ROM drive and media player software
- Storage media (CD-R or CD-RW, at least a 5-pack; USB flash drive, 2 GB or larger)
- A Google account with Gmail and Google Docs activated

## Minimum Student Outcomes

Upon completion of MUSC 2430 Intermediate Tech, the student will:

- apply basic theoretical concepts and vocabulary of music technology.
- explain the functions of the components that comprise a computer music workstation.
- demonstrate competency using current software to create written and recorded music.

## Course Format

This is a hands-on, highly-interactive course. Concepts and key information will be made available to you through lectures, demonstrations, audio-visual aids, handouts, and your textbook. Ultimately, however, your self-paced work on tutorials and projects will be where the greatest opportunities for learning lie. Aside from short quizzes over reading assignments, there are no traditional written tests like mid-term or final exams. Assessment will be based on completion of tutorials and application of concepts and skills within student projects.

## Approximate Final Grade Evaluation

- 40% — Creative Projects
- 30% — Tutorials/In-Class Activities
- 20% — Workstation Design Diagrams
- 10% — Music Fundamentals Worksheets

## Descriptions of Graded Course Components

**Creative Projects:** [Letter-graded; four total, each worth 10% of your final grade] Several aspects of music technology will be presented through lectures, readings, and tutorials. Once students are familiar with certain concepts, a self-proposed project based on those concepts will be assigned. The student will propose the project by filling out a short form, then execute the project and document the results. The projects should be short enough to complete within a week or so, but should be interesting and substantial enough to include in a portfolio of professional work. Guidelines and suggested projects can be found in Viewport IX of the textbook. If the student wishes to complete a project that is not listed, the project proposal must be approved by the instructor before work on the project commences.

**Tutorials/In-Class Activities:** [Letter-graded; each worth about 2% of your final grade] Concepts and skills will be reinforced via self-paced tutorials. These tutorials will be assigned at regular intervals (see the course calendar for specific dates). Some class time will be allotted for the completion of these activities, and some students may be able to finish them in the space of that time. If not, the remainder of the tutorial will be assigned as homework to be completed by the next meeting.

**Workstation Design Diagrams:** [3 total, each worth about 7% of your final grade] Using online chart-diagramming web app and Google Docs, students will design and price three hypothetical music technology workstation setups. They will be modeled after the various EMT workstation charts in the textbook. These exercises will allow students to explore options for creating a workstation that matches his or her budget and creative needs.

**Music Fundamentals Worksheets:** [9 total collected and letter-graded, each worth about 1% of your final grade] Basic reading skills in traditional music notation will greatly facilitate students' study of music engraving software. Short worksheets focusing on music fundamentals will be distributed at each class meeting. These are to be completed outside of class. Approximately every third worksheet will be collected for a grade. You are welcome to hand in the non-graded worksheets if you wish to receive feedback. They will be promptly graded and returned to you.

**Attendance & Participation:** While not directly factored into your grade, attendance and participation are vital to learning. Students are expected to attend class regularly, arrive on time, and stay for the entire session. You are responsible for learning all material covered in class whether you are present or not. If you do miss a meeting or a portion of one, please ask a classmate if you may review his or her notes.

### **Course Website**

Our class companion website for this course is available at [proferickson.com](http://proferickson.com). Here you'll find printable documents (such as the syllabus and other handouts), assignments, links to useful sites, and audio files. Any copyrighted material will be posted in a password-protected directory (login: musc, password: 2430).

### **Late and Incomplete Assignments**

Students are expected to complete all assignments by prescribed due dates. The "due date" is the beginning of the meeting following an assignment unless otherwise noted on the course calendar. Assignments submitted after the due date will be assessed a 10% penalty per class meeting that it is late. I will accept late work up until the final day of class, so do not simply "blow off" an assignment because the due date has passed and the work is subject to a late penalty. Partial credit is always better than no credit at all.

### **Absences and Make-up Quick Quiz Policy**

In cases of school-sponsored activities or illness resulting in an absence by the student, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor *in advance* of the missed class. Absences with advance notice are considered "excused." Students are responsible for all reading, listening and other homework assigned during the absence. Absences *without* prior notification to the instructor ("unexcused") will automatically result in forfeiture of any possible points associated with the missed class.

Quick Quizzes over the previous meeting's listening assignments are marked on the calendar. These quizzes cannot be made up or completed in advance due to absence (excused or otherwise) or tardiness. There are no exceptions to this policy. Fortunately, each individual quiz counts for a very small percentage of your final grade, missing one or two of them will not substantially effect your final score in the class. However, missing several of them *will* effect your final score. Please arrive a few minutes before class begins so you're ready when the quiz commences.

### **Course Withdrawal/Petition for Incomplete Grade**

On occasion, unforeseen circumstances may interfere with a student's ability to complete a course or to accomplish a satisfactory level of personal academic achievement. If you find yourself in this situation, I encourage you to visit with me regarding your options. Rarely is a grade unsalvageable if a student is willing to take the steps necessary to rectify it. If, however, a student is ever unable to fully devote his or her energies to the coursework, withdrawal may be the best option. Consult the college's academic calendar for the withdrawal deadline. Paperwork for withdrawals can be obtained from the Office of Records and Admissions.

A temporary grade of "I" or "incomplete" is available to students who cannot finish the course due to an emergency situation that arises late in the semester. The administration of an incomplete is at the instructor's discretion. Although I can be flexible depending on the circumstances of the student, my general policy is that the student should have at least 75% of the course completed and have a current grade of C or better at the time of the request for the incomplete grade. The incomplete portion of the course must be completed by the end of the semester following the request (summer sessions excluded) or the "I" will revert to an "F."

### **Northern Wyoming Community College District Policies**

A complete list of official college policies including the academic honesty and disabilities statements can be found on the NWCCD website by pointing your browser to this shortcut: <http://www.hurl.ws/eyk>.