

SYLLABUS

Meeting Day & Time: T/TH 9:20 – 10:21 AM
Location: MUS 101 (MIDI/Digital Audio Lab)

Instructor Info

Name: Jennifer Amaya

Office: MUS 101

Office Hours:
T/TH, 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

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Course Website & Materials

<http://www.musiconthe page.com/mus8a.html>

Course Description: An introduction to MIDI (Music Instrument Digital Interface) and Digital Audio and its applications. Includes the MIDI interface, sequencing, notation, and sampling used to produce musical projects. Total of 36 hours lecture & 54 hours lab.

Course Pre-Requisite: None

Expected Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- ❖ Assemble a home MIDI studio.
- ❖ Record music using a digital sequencer software application.
- ❖ Produce publish-ready sheet music using a music notation software application.
- ❖ Compose a simple piece of music.

Required Materials:

- ❖ Two USB Flash Drives (1 GB each, *Mac-Formatted In The Lab*)
- ❖ Stereo Headphones (1/4" TRS plug and long cable)
- ❖ Student Notebook (3-ringed binder for notes and handouts)
- ❖ MIDI/Digital Audio Lab Handbook (handed out in class)

Grading Policy: Your final grade will be based on the following 1000 pts:

❖ MIDI Sequencing Assignments (10 Class Assignments / 25 pts each)	250
❖ MIDI Projects (2 Personal Projects / 150 pts each)	300
❖ Music Analysis/Review (1 Written Paper / 50 pts)	50
❖ Multiple Choice Midterm Exam	100
❖ Written Final Exam	100
❖ 54 Logged-In Lab Hours (1 Hour = 2 pts; 108 pts possible)	100
❖ Student Notebook (Pass/Fail & Possible Extra Credit)	100
TOTAL: 1,000 pts possible	

Final Grades Will Be Based on the Following Percentages:

A	89.5 – 100 %
B	79.5 – 89.49 %
C	69.5 – 79.49 %
D	59.5 – 69.49 %
F	59.49 and below

Detailed Assignment & Project Requirements

MIDI Sequencing Assignments (10 total / 25 pts each): You will be asked to complete a total of ten short MIDI sequence assignments. Each assignment will highlight specific types of MIDI and/or computer information. Assignments must be submitted by the beginning of the class session in which they are due. Assignments may be played for the class. Parameters for each assignment will be discussed during the class session in which they are assigned. **Late assignments will not be accepted.** Assignments turned in on time may be re-submitted up to two weeks after the due date to make up for any unearned credit.

MIDI Projects (2 total / 150 pts each): You will be asked to complete a total of two personal MIDI sequencing projects. Each project will be a complete piece of music. Projects will showcase all of the techniques you have learned in class. Parameters for each project will be discussed during the class session in which they are assigned. **Late projects will not be accepted.** Projects turned in on time may be re-submitted up to two weeks after the due date to make up for any unearned credit.

Music Analysis/Review (1 total / 50 pts): You will be asked to complete an analysis of a commercial-style song (preferably from the 1980s) that makes use of MIDI technology. You will complete a written analysis form that will be provided to you by the instructor. A completed example will also be provided to you. *The analysis must be in your own words.* **Late analyses will accumulate a 10-point deduction for every class period in which they have not been turned in.** There will be no make-up credit for this assignment.

Multiple Choice Midterm Exam (100 pts): The midterm exam will test your knowledge of basic MIDI history, MIDI terminology and definitions, basic MIDI set-up, and the basic functions of the software learned in class. There will be a midterm review day that will help you prepare for the midterm.

Written Final Exam (100 pts): The final exam will test your knowledge of the hardware and software components of a basic home computer-based recording studio, as well as the MIDI and Audio techniques you have learned in class.

Lab Hours (100 pts): In addition to class meetings, students are required to attend lab hours in the MIDI/Audio Lab to assemble assignments and projects. You are asked to complete at least 54 hours of lab (3-5 hours per week). Hours are to be recorded on the RCC computer system (login computers located near the classroom entrance and inside both music buildings). You will log in using your student ID number. **Note: Your final grade will be significantly impacted if you fail to complete the required lab hours. Lab hours give you the practice you need to complete assignments correctly and they add up to 10% of your total grade.**

Student Notebook (100 pts): You are required to submit a cumulative, organized notebook (3-ringed binder) of all of your class notes, handouts, the MIDI/Digital Audio Lab Manual, assignment sheets, and other relevant miscellaneous materials that you collect, either in class or on your own, throughout the semester. **Note: This is a pass/fail assignment. Your final grade will be significantly impacted if you fail to turn in a completed course notebook.** *Up to 50 pts extra credit will be considered for any student who compiles relevant independent research outside of class and presents it within their notebook in an exceptional format.*

Required Materials

Flash Drives: You must purchase and bring with you to class two 1-GB or larger flash drives. You can purchase these at any office or computer supply store. It is strongly recommended that you research sales prices on flash drives prior to making your purchase. The Sunday paper advertisements are a great place to find competitive prices on flash drives. You will be submitting assignments by turning in a flash drive to the instructor (which is why you need two flash drives – one to turn in & one to work save your work to). You will be asked to remove all files from the drive *except* the assignment file(s) that is/are due. **Do not turn in your only copy of a very important file to the instructor on your flash drive – it may be deleted.**

Attendance: Class attendance is required and will be monitored. **During the first two weeks of classes, the instructor reserves the right to drop you for any unexcused absence. After week two, you may be dropped if you accumulate more than three unexcused absences.** An absence is considered excused if the instructor is notified in advance, or by the next class period, either in person, in writing (via email), or by phone. Only absences authorized on behalf of RCC or those that occur due to religious observance, illness or family emergency will be excused. See the RCCD Schedule of Classes for more information.

Exam Conflicts: If you have a conflict with an exam date, you must submit a request in writing to have that exam administered on a different date. I must receive that request at least one week prior to any foreseen conflict. **Only those students missing written exams due to illness or serious family emergency are eligible to make up exams after the posted exam date and time.**

Add/Drop: You are responsible for adding and dropping this class. The last day to add this course is 9/19/08. A student who needs an authorization code to add must obtain this code, in person, from the instructor during a regular class session. Students who wish to add after the first week of classes are required to complete a Late Enrollment Supplemental Assignment. The last day to drop without a “W” is 10/03/08. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student who does not show up for a regularly scheduled class session during the first two weeks of classes.

Disabled Student Services: If you have a documented disability requiring accommodation in this class, please contact me or the Office of Disabled Students Programs and Services at 222-8060. We will be happy to work with you in determining appropriate accommodations to meet the educational limitations resulting from your disability.

Fair Use/MIDI Lab Rules: Equipment and facilities owned by the Riverside Community College District may not be used for personal gain. Anyone entering MUS 101 (the MIDI/Digital Audio Lab) must abide by posted lab rules. Failure to do so may be grounds for expulsion from the lab.

Profanity/Harassment: The following conduct shall constitute good cause for discipline, including but not limited to the removal, suspension or expulsion of a student (see the RCCD Student Handbook for more information):

- ❖ Engaging in harassing or discriminatory behavior based on race, sex, religion, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or any other status protected by law.
- ❖ Disruptive behavior, willful disobedience, habitual profanity or vulgarity, or the open and persistent defiance of the authority of, or persistent abuse of college personnel.

Academic Integrity: All rules concerning honesty and academic integrity for this class will be the same as those described in the RCCD Student Handbook. I reserve the right to dismiss any student at any time for disruptive behavior. **Students who miss exams or are unable to submit assignments or projects on time due to dismissal or late enrollment may not make them up.**

Class Website: The instructor will post the syllabus, assignments, handouts, links, and additional class information at www.musiconthepage.com/mus8A.html. If there is a problem with this website, please notify the instructor. Similar course materials can be found at <http://faculty.rcc.edu/schmidt>.

Semester Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Date	Topic
1	09/02	Welcome & Introduction	09/04	Introduction to MIDI
2	09/09	Understanding MIDI – Part I	09/11	Understanding MIDI – Part II
3	09/16	Understanding MIDI – Part III Computer Sequencing System Introduction to MIDI Lab	09/18	Macs & Flash Drives Lab Software & File Types Introduction to Composing Music Beats, Meters, & Tempo The Elements of Music
4	09/23	Digital Performer: Starting & Saving Files Choosing Sounds & Saving Patches Naming Tracks Setting & Saving the Tempo Recording to a Click <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #1</i>	09/25	Digital Performer In-Depth Part I: Pop-Up Windows Keyboard Shortcuts Playback Controls Tracks Window
5	09/30	Digital Performer In-Depth Part II: Control Panel “Drawers” Setting Bar #1 as Bar #0 Sequence Assignment #1 Due	10/02	MIDI Data Types & The DP Event List <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #2</i>
6	10/07	Sub Other Ways to Record – Part I: Step Record Looping <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #3</i> <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #4</i>	10/09	Sub Other Ways to Record – Part II: Basic Editing & Selection Copy/Paste Review For Project #1 <i>Assign Project #1</i>
7	10/14	Sub Other Ways to Record – Part III: Importing & Working with MIDI Files Edit Menu – In Depth	10/16	Sub Digital Performer Drum Editor MIDI Drum Loops/Grooves Review Conductor Track <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #6 (out of order)</i>
8	10/21	Listening to Music Structures & Forms <i>Assign Music Reviews</i>	10/23	Midterm Review Sequence Assignments #2-4 & 6 Due
9	10/28	Midterm Exam	10/30	Samplers Using Reason with Digital Performer <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #7 (out of order)</i>

10	11/04	Project #1 Due Presentations & Critiques	11/06	Project #1 Due Presentations & Critiques
11	11/11	Digital Performer Mixer Volume, Panning Snapshots Sequence Assignment #7 Due	11/13	Digital Performer Mixer: Automation Master Fader Track Effects <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #5 (out of order)</i>
12	11/18	Songwriting <i>Assign Project #2</i>	11/20	Introduction to Audio Sampling <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #8</i>
13	11/25	Music Periodicals & Online Resources Final Exam Info Sequence Assignment #5 Due	11/27	Holiday – No Class Meeting
14	12/02	Review Audio Sampling Exporting Audio Tracks Burning Audio CDs in iTunes <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #9</i> Music Reviews Due	12/04	Sibelius Music Notation Software Part I <i>Assign Sequence Assignment #10</i> Sequence Assignment #8 Due
15	12/09	Sibelius Music Notation Software Part II	12/11	Final Review Notebook Guidelines Review Project #2 Review Sequence Assignment #9 Due
16	12/16	Final Exam Tuesday December 16 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM	What's Due? →	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written Final Exam 2. Project #2 Presentations (All) 3. Lab Hours Logged In 4. Course Notebooks 5. Sequence Assignment #10

There Will Be No Late Work Accepted After the Final Exam Meeting!