MUS 2736b (w2022): Intro to Digital Audio Production

MWF 11.30-12.20 in TC 200 (zoom for now)
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An introduction to digital-audio production, focusing most explicitly on the LogicX workstation paradigm. Prior experience making records is neither assumed nor required. Coursework will culminate in the creation of a "shop-ready" demo.

Prerequisite(s).
This course is the entry requirement for all subsequent production courses in the Popular Music Studies production module. It is necessary for MUS 3738 a/b, MUS 3739 a/b, and MUS 4740Y.

Course Materials.
All course materials will be distributed via owl, save:
Jay Hodgson, *Understanding Records (2nd edition)*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2019.

Evaluation.
Attendance & Participation (10%). Coursework & Quizzes (30%). Final Projects (60%)

Topics Covered: TBD.
Given the current circumstance, I am uncomfortable setting hard and fast dates for the material we will cover in this class. Due to the uncertain nature of our ability to meet in person this semester, distribution of course materials will be an ongoing process and will occur via owl. I will continue to update course materials on the owl website for this class, as what resources are available becomes clearer to me.

Meetings.
For now, I will say that I plan to begin meeting in person with groups in TC 200 beginning the first week of February, barring any further announcements concerning lockdown measures. In the interim, classes will be held via zoom. We use LogicProX in this class. If students do not have a personal copy, they can make use of the computer lab in TC 200 once we have access to that space again. Before that, they can use GB, Ableton, Reaper, etc. However, they will need to ensure that they can transfer the skills we learn in Logic to that DAW, and once classes resume in person LogicProX is required. I will explain more in class.

The first two classes will be exclusively devoted to organizing and explaining the course concept and design, so if you have any questions please don't hesitate to write them down and ask me once we are in zoom meetings together.

Graduates of this course have Grammy and JUNO awards, gold and platinum certifications, and hundreds of millions of streams in the last few years alone. You are now a part of this artist collective: I look forward to hearing you develop over the semester, and in the coming years!

Course Notes

Grading scale: A+=90-100%, A=80-89%, B=70-79%, C=60-69%, D=50-59%, F=0-49%.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence: Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. **Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus.** Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are not met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. **Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.**

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office. For the Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf
and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Special Note for Covid-19-related Situations:

As a guideline, if a student has been contacted by the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) to self-quarantine due to a Covid-19-related situation, then the Self-Reported Absence system is not to be used to report this absence or to request an academic accommodation. The student should contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as they are notified.

In general, students are advised to not self-determine when to self-isolate. Unless directed by the MLHU students should go about their business as usual. But if a student chooses to self-isolate due to a suspected Covid-19-related situation while waiting to receive direction from the MLHU then the student is directed to contact the Academic Counselling office as soon as possible for further direction on receiving accommodation consideration.

Academic Consideration for Missing Work: In cases where students are unable to submit work due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if an online self-reported absence is submitted, or if appropriate supporting documentation is submitted to the Associate Dean's office, and the accommodation is granted, then the missed assessments will be discounted ("deferred") in the calculation

of the final grade for the course, at the discretion of the instructor. If neither a self-reported absence nor an appropriate supporting document is submitted to the appropriate office, then the missed assignments will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Offences: Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health & Wellness: Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (https://www.uwo.ca/health/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green "I Need Help Now" button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities: Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Religious Accommodation: Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.
http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo

Contingency Plan: Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Recording of Online Activities: All of the remote learning sessions for this course may be recorded. The data captured during these recordings may include your image, voice recordings, chat logs and personal identifiers (name displayed on the screen). The recordings will be used for educational purposes related to this course, including evaluations. The recordings may be disclosed to other individuals participating in the course for their private or group study purposes. Please contact the instructor if you have any concerns related to session recordings. Also: do not consider recordings to be available as a course resource: the instructor will not distribute recordings for missed classes.

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation, or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor.

Online Etiquette: Some components of this course may involve synchronous online interactions. To ensure the best experience for both you and your classmates, please observe the following general considerations of "netiquette":

- Keep in mind the different cultural and linguistic backgrounds of the students in the course.
- Be courteous toward the instructor, your colleagues, and authors whose work you are discussing.
- Be respectful of the diversity of viewpoints that you will encounter in the class and in your readings. The exchange of diverse ideas and opinions is part of the scholarly environment.

Note that disruptive behaviour of any type during online classes, including inappropriate use of the chat function, is unacceptable. Students found guilty of "Zoom-bombing" a class, or of other serious online offenses, may be subject to disciplinary measures under the Code of Student Conduct.