Course Syllabus

Course: **Electronic Music I**

Glendale Community College, Fall 2011
Room MU1-105 GCC Electronic Music Lab
MTC 191 section 16227 MWF 11:00-11:50am
MTC 191 section 16488 MWF 12:00-12:50pm
MTC 191 section 30505 MWF 11:00-11:50am

Instructor: **Dr.Douglas Nottingham** office phone 623.845.3915
e-mail doug.nottingham@gcmail.maricopa.edu
website: http://www.gccaz.edu/performingarts/12269.htm
office CL-21 lab MU-105
office/lab hours: M 6-7pm T TH 8:30-9am 11-11:30am W F 10-11am

Materials: **Text:** Nahmani,David ***Logic Pro 9 and Logic Express 9***
Headphones: with 1/4 in. stereo input
Storage media: CD-R's for audio
USB flash drive or portable hard drive

Lab times: In addition to scheduled class times, a minimum of 1 hour of lab time is necessary each week. Lab Hours will be posted. As the semester progresses and projects become more intricate, students may substitute lab time for class time with the instructor's permission.

Course description (from the course catalog): An introduction to producing music with Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) configuration consisting of computers, printers, synthesizers, and other compatible MIDI instruments. Prerequisites: none.

Additional Course Description: Electronic Music I is a survey of electronic music systems and techniques with an emphasis on basic sequencing and software applications.

Course Rationale and Goals: Throughout the course of the semester, the student will be introduced to the media of MIDI and digital audio composition via several current software and hardware platforms. A partial listing is below:

Software
Mac OS X Snow Leopard
Logic Studio 9
Various software instruments and effects
iTunes
Wave Burner
Quicktime

The following subject matter will be covered this semester, as time allows:

-musical aesthetics
-basic acoustics
-music fundamentals and notation
-musical form and composition
-history of Electronic Music- major figures and trends
-introduction to Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI)
-introduction to digital audio
-setting up and customizing a Desktop studio
-introduction to the Mac OS 10.6 (Snow Leopard)
-sequencing
  notation-based sequencing
  real-time sequencing
  step sequencing
importing/exporting MIDI files
-introduction to synthesis

-use of software synthesizers and samplers
-composing using audio loops
-introduction to digital production techniques

As software platforms, hardware platforms, and electronic compositional techniques are discussed in class, students will be given assignments to demonstrate an understanding and eventual mastery of said application and techniques. These will be graded by the instructor in addition to being performed for and discussed by your peers. Tests and assignments on in class discussions and assigned reading material will be given at announced intervals.

This class is primarily a *technical and perceptual learning experience*. There is no way to measure more than a fraction of the new technical skills, auditory skills and added aesthetic discrimination that you will acquire this semester. These skills will be refined through in class demonstrations and discussion. Though an abstract yet informed appreciation of all sonic art, especially Electronic Music, is the goal of this course, grades must be assigned because this is a credit course in college.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, the student will demonstrate:

1. ability to perform basic computer functions of the Mac OS including file management procedures and techniques.
2. understanding of basic acoustics.
3. understanding of the fundamentals of music notation, form, and composition.
4. understanding of basic and advanced sequencer functions via Logic software.
5. understanding of various sequencer entry styles.
6. understanding of the basic principles of synthesis.
7. understanding of digital sampling, sample editing, and sample formats.
8. Understanding of composing using various audio loop formats.
9. knowledge of the history of electronic music and the evolution of electronic compositional techniques and trends.
10. understanding of how analog and digital technologies have impacted the field of music.

Attendance policy: Attendance is expected at all lectures. Students are responsible for all material covered during times of absence. During projects students may substitute lab time for class time. **It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course.**

GCC Electronic Music Lab Rules:
In the interest of fostering as free and open of a creative environment as possible, the following simple rules exist…

1. No food or drinks in the lab.
2. Treat the colleagues/instruments/computers/instructors/technicians gently and with respect.
3. Monitor at a considerate level; use headphones when practical.
4. Yield workstations to students in classes or labs.
5. Follow the instructions of the instructor or lab workers.
6. Log out, power down, and push in your chair when you finish.
7. Enrolled GCC students only in the lab, please.
8. Restart “crashed” computers.
9. Turn cell-phones/pagers off- no texting during class.
10. FAILURE to follow rules will result in the loss of lab privileges.

Classroom Environment:
Since attentive listening to the lectures, musical examples and resultant discussions are major components of this course, and students have paid tuition for those privileges, **classroom disruptions of any kind will obviously not be tolerated.** (No unnecessary talking or whispering, turn off cell phones [no texting], **arrive on time** and don’t leave early). No food or drinks, sealed water is ok.

Grading:

Take home midterm exam	100 pts.
Projects	various pt. values (a rubric will be given regarding each assignment- criteria and weight will be discussed individually)
Final Project*	300 pts.

In all projects, the criteria for grading will be the level at which the student demonstrates mastery of the electronic technique in question. A grade will be assigned by the instructor following an in-class performance of the work. In the Final Projects, the student will be assigned a grade on the basis of demonstrated mastery of all previously covered techniques as well as on the basis of the compositional merits of the work. All delinquent assignments must be turned in by the last day of class for any credit to be received.

Academic Fraud (cheating/plagiarism): Students are expected to turn in their own work. Unethical conduct will not be tolerated. Any student accused of academic fraud will receive a grade of "**F**" for the semester. Students have the right to due process; Consult your student handbook for details.

If you have any questions regarding this syllabus or course, are experiencing difficulty related to the course, or need to register a concern or complaint, *please see the instructor*.

If you have or think you have a disability, including a learning disability, please make an appointment with an advisor at disability resources as soon as possible. They can assist you with appropriate accommodations for you in your classes.

Course content may deviate from the syllabus due to specific student needs and interests.