Course Syllabus: Music Technology
Lamar D. Fain College of Fine Arts
MUSC 3893
Spring 2025

Contact Information

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Please message me from within D2L. If you must use my school email, please place "Music Technology" in the subject line so that I don't miss it.
If you do not receive a response from me within 24 hours, please email or text me again.

Course Description

Credit Hours: 3

Catalog Description

A survey including advances in music technology, digital synthesis, sequencing, MIDI, desktop music publishing, basic music acoustics, music applications of the Internet, recording, microphones, and sound systems. May be repeated for credit.

Course Materials

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU **D2L** program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into D2L through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

Brightspace Pulse

Please download this D2L application to your mobile device. It is available on both the Apple and Google Play app stores. Brightspace Pulse sends you push notifications for announcements, assignments, and grades. It also allows you to review course content off-line when you have no cell service or wi-fi available.

Technology
No physical copies of assignments will be accepted. All work for this course will be submitted digitally.

Academic Success

Accommodation Policies
In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to [Disability Support Services](#).

Tutoring
The music department provides free tutoring for all music theory courses. Please see the instructor for more information.

Student Learning Outcomes

SLOs are also aligned with the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) State Board of Educator Certification (SBEC) EC-12 music, technology, and pedagogy and professional responsibilities standards. Please see Appendix A for a complete listing of the SBEC standards and corresponding course activities.

Theme 1
Technical terminology allows musicians to communicate efficiently and accurately in order to enhance the creation and performance of music.

SLO 1: (SBEC EC-12 Music 10.E, 12.F; SBEC EC-12 PPR 3.E, 4.G, 6.F, 9.A, 9.B, 9.C; SBEC Technology Applications 8.F, 9.C, 12.A) Students who successfully complete Music Technology will develop the following digital literacy and organizational skills:

- Create and maintain a digital calendar, task management, note-taking, and filing system.
- Use a productivity system to improve organization and focus.
- Organize and maintain digital communication.
- Create, access, organize, upload, convert, and share files in a cloud-based drive.
- Create, format, and share word documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and forms.
- Use video conferencing and project management software to facilitate communication and collaboration.
- Speed up routine tasks with keyboard shortcuts.
- Understand and demonstrate adherence to U.S. copyright law.
- Generate a citation for a source in the Chicago/Turabian style.
- (optional) Complete Level 1 Google Educator Certification.

SLO 2: (SBEC EC-12 7.C, 11.B, 11.G; SBEC EC-12 PPR 3.E; SBEC Technology Application 8.D, 8.E) Students who successfully complete Music Technology will develop the following desktop music publishing (notation) software (Musescore and Finale) skills:

- Create new documents using the setup wizard and templates.
- Demonstrate the major methods of note entry in music notation software.
- Demonstrate use of multiple layers (voices) on a staff.
- Add and edit expressive markings in the score.
- Add bar line variations, including repeats, and coda markings.
- Play back scores using hardware and software synthesizers.
- Control playback mix (volume), pan, and tempo.
- Manipulate page layout and orientation.
- Change the spacing and organization of staves.
- Create various text features.
- Perform a part extraction.
- Output scores to MIDI files and digital audio files.
- Export graphic file formats to word documents.
- Create a full ensemble score from a simple 4-part arrangement.
- Create a lead sheet.
- Create a large ensemble score using a provided model.
- Discuss the issues in copyright as they apply to works of music transcribed with music notation software.
- Evaluate desktop music publishing software options.
- Discuss applications of desktop music publishing software in the classroom, studio, and practice room.

SLO 3: (SBEC EC-12 Music 11.B, 11.G, 12.C SBEC EC-12 PPR 3.D, SBEC Technology Applications 8.D, 8.E) Students who successfully complete Music Technology will develop the following music production skills:

- Connect MIDI instruments and other components for a music technology lab and/or home studio.
- Execute basic performance techniques unique to electronic instruments.
- Operate basic navigation and features of a digital audio workstation (DAW).
- Insert and edit loops in a DAW.
- Mix a multiple-track recording in a DAW.
- Quantize a recording in a DAW.
- Correct timing and pitch errors in a DAW.
- Edit global tempo settings in a DAW.
- Record an audio track.

- Create a multi-track percussion track.
- Discuss applications of DAWs in the classroom, studio, and practice room.

SLO 4: (SBEC EC-12 Music 7.C, 11.G, 12.C; SBEC EC-12 PPR 9.A, 9.E; SBEC Technology Applications 8.E, 8.F, 11.A, 11.C, 12.A) Students who successfully complete Music Technology will develop the following digital marketing skills:

- Use basic visual design principles to design promotional media that is accessible and engaging.
- Write copy for marketing and promotion.
- Create and publish a simple website.
- Film, edit, and publish a simple video.

Scientifically-Based Research and References

We use scientific research to keep our students up to date on the latest trends in the field. This course specifically uses excerpts from the following references:

Hosken, Daniel. *An Introduction to Music Technology.* Routledge. 2014.

Manzo, V.J. *Foundations of Music Technology.* Oxford University Press. 2015.

Grading and Assessment

All assignments will be assigned and submitted electronically on D2L.

Assignments	Percentage of Final Grade
SLO 1	30% of Final Grade
SLO 2	30% of Final Grade
SLO 3	20% of Final Grade
SLO 4	20% of Final Grade
TOTAL	**100%**

Grade	Percentage
A+ (100)	The student consistently demonstrates the ability to synthesize knowledge and skills in the project.
A (95)	The student consistently demonstrates the ability to apply and transfer essential content and skills in the project.

Grade	Percentage
B (85)	The student demonstrates the ability to comprehend and apply essential content and skills in the project.
C (75)	The student is not demonstrating the application of essential content and skills in the project.
D (65)	The student is not yet competent in the content and skills of the project.
F (0-50)	The student has not produced enough evidence to determine the level of competency. (Failure to complete a project)

Resubmissions

All assignments receiving a grade of C or lower should be corrected and resubmitted in order to prevent major issues with content later in the course.

In an effort to encourage all students to improve their music theory skills, all students may correct and resubmit **any assignment for a higher grade throughout the semester.** After the initial submission, feedback will be provided in the comments of the assignment. Please view the comments before resubmitting. Subsequent resubmissions should be made only after scheduling a tutor session or office hour appointment.

Late Work

Initial submissions of homework and composition projects must be made by the due date for each assignment. If the initial submission is late, a 10% penalty will be incurred. There is no penalty for resubmissions.

Make Up Work

In case of severe illness, please contact the instructor. All course work and lecture videos can be found on D2L.

Important Dates

Please refer to the official university academic calendar:
https://msutexas.edu/registrar/calendars.php
to: Drops, Withdrawals & Void

Change of Schedule

A student dropping a course (but not withdrawing from the University) within the first 12 class days of a regular semester or the first four class days of a summer semester is eligible for a100% refund of applicable tuition and fees. Dates are published in the Schedule of Classes each semester.

Refund and Repayment Policy
A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

Classroom Policies
Please refer to: Student Handbook 2024-2025

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures
Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given).

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:
- Using any part of another person or entity's (e.g. generative A.I.) work for academic credit *(You are encouraged to seek as many resources as you can; however, you must cite any work that is not your own.)*
- Using an assignment in more than one class without the instructor's permission *(*
- Accessing or sharing restricted information through electronic means without the instructor's permission *(This includes electronically sharing assignment files in this course.)*

Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Office of Student Conduct

Airborne Illness Policies
In order to mitigate the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus and other airborne illnesses, please refer to the official MSU coronavirus page: https://msutexas.edu/coronavirus. Food should not be brought into the classroom unless you have spoken with the instructor ahead of time. Drinks are allowed but please be respectful of the space and other people.

Alcohol and Drug Policy
To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Attendance Policies
All students are expected to attend synchronous face-to-face sessions in the classroom. A synchronous Zoom option or an asynchronous option will be available to students who are currently ill/quarantined or who have direct conflicts with the class time (e.g. medical

appointment). Students who need one of these options for a particular date should send an email to the instructor **by 8 a.m.** of the day they will miss.

Attendance for both options will be taken through D2L. An attendance assignment will be posted in the course for every class session. If you attend a synchronous face-to-face session, you will submit a photo with a daily posted image during class **or** you will log into the day's Kahoot. If you attend a synchronous Zoom session, you will be required to submit a screenshot of the posted image **or** log into the day's Kahoot. If you view an asynchronous video of a class session, you will be required to submit a screenshot of the day's posted image.

Students who have failed to submit attendance assignments for **3 or more consecutive classes** will be reported to the Early Alert monitoring system. Students who have failed to submit attendance assignments for **6 or more *total* classes by March 1st** will be dropped from the course for non-attendance.

All course content is posted on the course site on D2L. There is no need to ask what was missed during a particular session, as a video from each class will be posted in the attendance assignment for that day.

If you encounter any emergencies during a particular week that make any of the attendance options impossible, please contact the instructor via email as soon as possible. Please designate a roommate or loved one who will email your professors in case you become incapacitated and cannot attend class. *The instructor is unable to reply to your designee unless you have signed a FERPA release form in the registrar's office allowing them access to your educational records.*

Campus Carry Rules/Policies
Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Grade Appeal Process
Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [Undergraduate Catalog](#)

Online Computer Requirements
Taking a class that uses D2L requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class. ***Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments.*** Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student help desk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both liability and resource limitations however they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into D2L**.**

Smoking/Tobacco Policy
College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by WATC. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Notice
Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of any changes on D2L.

Course Schedule

The course schedule for this course is posted on D2L.

Appendix 1

TExES Domains and Competencies

Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES)

The Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) for Music Technology link to the following TExES domains and competencies necessary to become a music educator in the state of Texas:

Competencies	Student Learning Objectives & Activities
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain III: Music History and Culture	
Competency 007- The teacher understands music of diverse genres, styles, and cultures and knows how music can reflect elements of a specific society or culture.	
C. Analyzes the purposes and roles of music in society and culture and analyzes relationships between music and society, culture, and technology.	Students demonstrate direct uses of technology in the classroom, practice room, and studio.
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain IV: Music Classroom Performance	
Competency 010- The teacher knows how to conduct vocal and instrumental performances.	
E. Understands legal and ethical issues related to the use or performance of music in an educational setting, applies knowledge of copyright laws to make appropriate decisions about the use of music in an educational setting and knows federal and state policies and regulations concerning the use and performance of music.	Students demonstrate understanding of copyright law and analyze case studies derived from copyright lawsuits.
SBEC EC-12 Music Domain V: Music Education	
Competency 011- The teacher knows how to plan and implement effective music instruction.	
B. Knows how to use multiple forms of assessment and knowledge of the TEKS to help determine students' progress in developing music skills and understanding, applies knowledge of techniques and criteria for ongoing assessment of students' musical knowledge and skills and knows how to use assessment results to help develop instructional plans.	Students apply the use of music notation and production software to evaluate music performance.
G. Knows how to use varied materials, resources, and technologies to promote students' creativity, learning, and performance and understands the use of technology as a tool in the music class.	Students discuss ways in which music notation, production, and digital marketing tools can be used in the classroom.

SBEC EC-12 Music Domain V: Music Education	
Competency 012- The teacher knows how to provide students with learning experiences that enhance their musical knowledge, skills and appreciation.	
C. Demonstrates knowledge of various music and music-related career options and knows how to promote music as an integral element in students' lives, whether as a vocation or as an avocation.	Students discuss ways in which the music technology skills learned in class can be used to pursue various career options within and adjacent to music performance and music education.
F. Applies strategies and procedures for effectively managing and organizing the music class in various settings (e.g. rehearsal room, concert hall, marching field); knows how to manage time, instructional resources, and physical space effectively for the music class; and knows how to teach students concert etiquette.	Students apply digital literacy and organizational techniques to increase productivity and manage resources.
G. Demonstrates knowledge of techniques for effectively and efficiently managing varied resources for the music education program and applies strategies for managing and documenting the use and condition of musical instruments and other materials in the music program.	Students apply the use of spreadsheets, databases, and budgeting software to equipment management.
SBEC EC-12 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Domain I: Designing Instruction and Assessment to Promote Student Learning	
Competency 003- The teacher understands procedures for designing effective and coherent instruction and assessment based on appropriate learning goals and objectives.	
E. Demonstrates knowledge of various types of materials and resources (including technological resources and resources outside the school) that may be used to enhance student learning and engagement and evaluates the appropriateness of specific materials and resources for use in particular situations, to address specific purposes, and to meet varied student needs.	Students demonstrate direct uses of technology in the classroom, practice room, and studio.
Competency 004- The teacher understands learning process and factors that impact student learning and demonstrates this knowledge by planning effective, engaging instruction, and appropriate assessments.	
G. Teaches, models, and monitors organizational and time-management skills at an age-appropriate level (e.g. establishing regular places for classroom toys and materials for young children, keeping related materials together, using organizational tools, using effective strategies for locating information and organizing information systematically).	Students apply digital literacy and organizational techniques to increase productivity and manage resources.
SBEC EC-12 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Domain II: Creating a Positive, Productive Classroom Environment	
Competency 006- The teacher understands strategies for creating an organized and productive learning environment and for managing student behavior.	
F. Uses technological tools to perform administrative tasks such as taking attendance,	Students apply digital literacy and organizational techniques to increase productivity and manage resources.

maintaining grade books, and facilitating communication.	
SBEC EC-12 Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities Domain III: Implementing Effective, Response Instruction and Assessment	
Competency 009- The teacher incorporates the effective use of technology to plan, organize, deliver, and evaluate instruction for all students.	
A. Demonstrates knowledge of basic terms and concepts of current technology, systems, and operations (e.g. hardware, software applications and functions, input/output devices, networks, and basic design principles).	Students define and apply technical terminology while using productivity, music notation, music production, and digital marketing tools.
B. Understands issues related to the safe and appropriate use of technology in society and follows guidelines for the legal and ethical use of technology and digital information (e.g. privacy guidelines, copyright laws, acceptable use policies, and digital etiquette).	Students demonstrate adherence to copyright law and to the music industry's ethical standards.
C. Applies procedures for acquiring, analyzing, and evaluating electronic information (e.g. locating information on networks, accessing and manipulating information from secondary storage and remote devices, using online help and other documentation, and evaluating electronic information for accuracy and validity).	Students demonstrate digital organization through the use of a variety of tools.
E. Knows how to use productivity tools to collaborate and communicate information in various formats (e.g. slide show, multimedia presentation, and newsletter) and applies procedures for publishing information in various ways (e.g. printed copy, monitor display, Internet document, and video).	Students publish digital marketing projects.
SBEC EC-12 Technology Applications Domain III: Digital Communications and Multimedia	
Competency 008- The teacher demonstrates knowledge of current practice, future trends, and procedural protocols in the use of audio/video and digital publications.	
D. Knows how to use and implement audio techniques in order to create, edit, and integrate digital sounds.	Students record and edit music using a DAW.
E. Knows how to determine the most appropriate file type based on universally recognized file formats for audio, video, and digital publications, such as WAV, MP3, OGG, MP4, AVI, MOV, PDF, PNG, JPG, IBA, WebM and EPUB.	Students define and apply the appropriate file type for various situations involving DAWs, music notation, productivity, and digital marketing.
F. Knows how to select the appropriate compression codec for documents, images, audio, and video files with consideration for audience and final platform.	Students demonstrate appropriate file management techniques when collaborating with others.
Competency 009- The teacher knows how to design, produce, and distribute multimedia products.	

B. Knows how to apply copyright laws, licenses, and fair use (including Creative Commons and public domain) as well as use digital information such as attributing ideas and citing sources.	Students demonstrate understanding of copyright law and analyze case studies derived from copyright lawsuits. Students demonstrate knowledge of citing sources in the Turabian/Chicago style.
C. Demonstrates appropriate respect for intellectual property when manipulating, morphing and editing graphics, video, text, and sound.	Students demonstrate understanding of copyright law and analyze case studies derived from copyright lawsuits. Students demonstrate knowledge of citing sources in the Turabian/Chicago style.
SBEC EC-12 Technology Applications Domain IV: Web Design	
Competency 011- The teacher knows principles of Web design and implements a variety of tools and techniques to create and troubleshoot Web pages for a diverse audience.	
A. Knows how to use specific tools such as text editors and Web authoring programs to create a Web site.	Students publish digital marketing projects.
C. Demonstrates knowledge of issues related to incorporating graphics, video, audio, and multimedia sequences into a Web page.	Students publish digital marketing projects.
Competency 012- The teacher knows how to use Web pages to communicate and interact effectively with others.	
A. Knows how to format information for appropriate and effective communication (e.g. appropriate use of hyperlinks, designing content for a specific audience).	Students publish digital marketing projects and engage in professional digital communication.