MUSC 191 - DIGITAL MUSIC COMPOSITION II

I. Basic Course Information

A. Course Number and Title: MUSC 191: DIGITAL MUSIC COMPOSITION II

B. New or Modified Course: modified

C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2014

D. Sponsoring Department: Visual and Performing Arts

E. Semester Credit Hours: 3

F. Weekly Contact Hours: 4 Lecture: 2 Laboratory: 2

G. Prerequisites: MUSC 190 Digital Music Composition I or permission of instructor

H. Laboratory Fees: Yes

I. Department Chair: Dennis Russo, Co-Chair, Performing Arts (908) 526-1200 x8391, drusso@raritanval.edu

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Digital Music Composition I (MUSC190) or permission of instructor. This course is a continuation of Digital Music Composition I in the use of computers, MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface), and digital audio, using software sequencing, software synthesizers, and software samplers to compose, record, edit, and perform music. Further aspects of MIDI and digital audio will be discussed, as well as sampling and signal processing. (Students will be required to supply their own headphones – 1/4” jack).

III. Statement of Course Need

A. Synthesizers and the musical application of computers through the use of MIDI, digital recording, and the manipulation of digital audio have revolutionized the music industry. The demand for trained and experienced musicians in this field is high. The first semester course (MUSC-190) provides a basic introduction to the MIDI protocol and to software synthesizers. A second semester course is needed not only to hone the technical and compositional skills developed over the course of the first semester but also to provide instruction in digital audio, sampling, and signal processing through more
involved compositional projects
B. This course is taught in A-09B, our digital composition and music lab, equipped with computer stations and appropriate musical technologies and software.
C. Course transferability: Based on evaluations by the njtransfer.org website, this course transfers to most Associate and Bachelor programs as an equivalent music course in Music or Fine Arts. Kean University, Montclair State University, City University, Rowan University, and William Paterson University have similar courses.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free elective
B. The course serves as a VAPA elective for AFA Music.
C. To see course transferability for New Jersey colleges and universities, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; for other colleges and universities, go to the individual college website.

V. Outline of Course Content

A. Sequencing MIDI with a PC
   1. Automation
   2. MIDI Effects
   3. Logical Editing
B. Digital Audio
   1. Recording
   2. Editing
   3. Building a CD
C. Sampling
   1. Looping
   2. Pitch Shifting
D. Signal Processing
   1. Dynamic Range Processing
   2. Filters
   3. Delay
   4. Pitch/Time Changing
E. Sound Mixing
   1. Mixing Consoles
   2. Multi-track Recording and Remixing
   3. Audio monitoring

VI. General Education Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Goals:

   Students will:
1. demonstrate the applications of various hardware and software technologies, including MIDI controller, sequencers, synthesizers and samplers, to the processes and applications of music composition. (GE-NJ 4, 6, *)
2. apply more advanced techniques in audio and digital procedures such as sampling, editing, processing, multitrack recording and remixing. (GE-NJ 4)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to:
1. integrate concepts/procedures of digital audio in composition and related musical applications.
2. integrate concepts/procedures of music synthesis in composition and related musical applications.

(* embedded critical thinking)

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

A. lecture/discussion
B. small-group work
C. computer-assisted instruction
E. student oral presentations

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

A. weekly laboratory work and preparations
B. written examinations or quizzes on factual aspects of the course content
C. composition/arrangement assignments
D. creativity, effort, participation, attendance

IX. Grade Determinants

A. Written exams and quizzes
B. Weekly homework and preparation
C. Completion, presentation and evaluation of all assigned composition, arrangement and orchestration projects
D. Class participation, effort, progress, attendance

X. Texts and Materials

A. Text: None
B. Materials: Students must purchase:
   Headphones (1/4” jack)
   Recordable compact discs
XI. Resources

A. Soundproof studio
B. Computer workstations with professional-quality audio cards
C. Sequencing Software
D. Software synthesizers
E. Software sampler
F. Compact Disc burning software
G. Playback system with Mixer