

University of Florida | School of Music | Spring 2026

## MUS 1360 Digital Musicianship and Production

M,W,F | (9:35 AM - 10:25 AM) MUB 147

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### Instructor

Xiaowei Cao

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(786)-582-0060

Office hours: By appointment

### Course Description

MUS1360 introduces the fundamentals of music technology in the context of digital music production. The course focuses on the basic technical skills required for producing creative music projects in Logic Pro X. The scientific foundations of acoustics, hearing, and digital audio, as well as their practical applications, will also be addressed.

### Textbook

Hosken, Dan. *An Introduction to Music Technology*. 2nd ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2015.

Logic Pro User Guide for Mac: <https://support.apple.com/guide/logicpro/welcome/mac>

### Required Equipments

- Headphones/Earphones (**NO bluetooth or Mac speaker**)
- 1/4 inch TRS Male to 3.5mm TRS Female Adapter
- USB flash drive/External hard drive or Google Drive

### General Learning Goals.

This course enables students to:

- Develop a critical understanding of the fundamentals of essential technologies used in today's musical production, such as digital audio workstation, MIDI controller, audio interface, and so on.
- Develop technical and creative skills for utilizing Logic Pro X in music production.
- Learn to identify and solve common problems found in digital audio.

## Assessment Information

Students will be evaluated based on five main factors: Attendance, Participation, Quizzes, Assignments, and the Final Group Project.

Students will need to actively participate in class (e.g., engaging in discussions and asking questions) to receive full marks for participation.

**Assignments** and **Quizzes** will mostly consist of materials covered in lectures and assigned readings. **Quizzes** will usually take place once every two weeks. Students can complete **Assignments** during **Class Lab Hour**. For **Lab Hour** outside of regular class time, check the posted schedule outside of the **Computer Lab (MUB 147)** for more details. All assignments and quizzes, along with their corresponding requirements, will be posted on Canvas, which students should complete in a timely manner.

Students will also have to complete a **Final Project** where students will either **1) Mock the production of an existing song** or **2) Create an original production**.

## Grading

Attendance	10%
Discussions & Participations	15%
Quizzes	20%
Assignments	25%
Final Project	30%

## Attendance

**\*1 unexcused absences** are allowed, any unexcused absence after that will result in a 10% deduction from the total attendance grade (2% of final grade). 8 or more unexcused absences will automatically result in an E grade (failure).

For an absence to be excused, the student will need to email the instructor **BEFORE** class starts and provide valid documentation (for example: doctor's note, appointment confirmation, etc.) for missing class (religious holidays, school sponsored trips, or absences cleared/approved in advance by the instructor will also be counted as excused)

Students are responsible for learning the content of a missed class (and if you have any questions, please don't suffer alone. Schedule an office hour and we will work things out!)

Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade, and assignments turned in more than 48 hours after the deadline will receive no credit unless prior arrangements have been made.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage	Grade point
A	93.4-100	4.00
A-	90.0-93.3	3.67
B+	86.7-89.9	3.33
B	83.4-86.6	3.00
B-	80.0-83.3	2.67
C+	76.7-79.9	2.33
C	73.4-76.6	2.00
C-	70.0-73.3	1.67
D+	66.7-69.9	1.33
D	63.4-66.6	1.00
D-	60.0-63.3	0.67
E	0-59.9	0.00

## University Honest Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. [See the UF Conduct Code website for more information.](#) If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

## Class Schedules

**\*Class schedules on this syllabus are subject to change**

**Lab/Q&A** - Dedicated class time for students to do their **Assignments**, or work on the **Final Project**.

Week 1 (01/12-01/18)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (01/12) Syllabus and Class Overview</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (01/14) Sound Generation and Propagation</p> <p><b>Readings for 01/14:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chpt. 1</li> <li>- Chpt. 2</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (01/16) The Overtone Series and the Spectrum View</p> <p><b>Readings for 01/16:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chpt. 3</li> </ul> <p><b>Quiz 1</b> due by <a href="#">Sunday 08/31 11:59pm</a></p>
Week 2 (01/19-01/25)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (01/19) <b>NO CLASS (Holiday)</b></p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (01/21) <b>Quiz 1</b> Lab Equipment Overview; Digital Audio Data</p> <p><b>Readings for 01/19:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chpt. 5 (pp. 81-88 <b>*before Signal Type</b>)</li> <li>- Chpt. 6</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (01/23) <a href="#">Logic Pro X Overview</a></p> <p><b>Readings for 01/23:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chpt. 4 (pp. 53-65)</li> </ul>
Week 3 (01/26 - 02/01)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (01/26) <a href="#">Working with Audio in Logic Pro X</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (01/28) <a href="#">Working with Audio in Logic Pro X (cont.)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (01/30) <a href="#">Lab/Q&amp;A</a></p>
Week 4 (02/02-02/08)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (02/02) <b>Quiz 2</b></p>

	<p>Working with MIDI in Logic Pro X Final Project Introduction</p> <p><b>Sequencing Assignment 1</b> due by <u>Monday 02/02 11:59pm</u></p> <p><b>Readings for 02/02:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i> - Chpt. 8 (pp.136-141 <b>*before Rewire Synth</b>)</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> (02/04) Working with MIDI in Logic Pro X (cont.)</p> <p><u>Friday</u> (02/06) Lab/Q&amp;A</p>
Week 5 (02/09-02/15)	<p><u>Monday</u> (02/09) Sampling Techniques in Logic Pro X</p> <p><b>Readings for 02/09:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i> - Chpt. 13</p> <p><b>Sequencing Assignment 2</b> due by <u>Monday 02/09 11:59pm</u></p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> (02/11) Sampling Techniques in Logic Pro X (cont.)</p> <p><u>Friday</u> (02/13) <b>Quiz 3</b> Lab/Q&amp;A</p>
Week 6 (02/16-02/22)	<p><u>Monday</u> (02/16) Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> (02/18) Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Sequencing Assignment 3</b> due by <u>Wednesday 02/18 11:59pm</u></p> <p><u>Friday</u> (02/20) Synthesis Basics</p> <p><b>Readings for 02/20:</b> <i>An Introduction to Music Technology</i> - Chpt. 11</p>
Week 7 (02/23 - 03/01)	<p><u>Monday</u> (02/23) Alchemy Synth in Logic Pro X</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> (02/25)</p>

	<p>Alchemy Synth in Logic Pro X (cont.)</p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (02/27) Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Final Project Proposal</b> due by <u>Sunday 03/01 11:59pm</u></p>
Week 8 (03/02-03/08)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (03/02) Organizing your projects in Logic Pro X</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (03/04) Organizing your projects in Logic Pro X (cont.)</p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (03/06) Lab/Q&amp;A</p>
Week 9 (03/09-03/15)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (03/09) <b>Quiz 4</b> Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (03/11) Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (03/13) Lab/Q&amp;A</p> <p><b>Mid-term Sequencing Assignment</b> due by <u>Friday 03/13 11:59pm</u></p>
Week 10 (03/16-03/22)	<b>SPRING BREAK NO CLASS</b>
Week 11 (03/23-03/29)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (03/23) Time-based Effects; Sends</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (03/25) Time-based Effects; Sends (cont.)</p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (03/27) Lab/Q&amp;A</p>
Week 12 (03/30-04/05)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (03/30) Channel EQ in Logic Pro X</p> <p><a href="#">Wednesday</a> (04/01) Channel EQ in Logic Pro X (cont.)</p> <p><a href="#">Friday</a> (04/03) Lab/Q&amp;A</p>
Week 13 (04/06-04/12)	<p><a href="#">Monday</a> (04/06) <b>Quiz 5</b></p>

	Automation in Logic Pro X <b>Mixing Assignment 1</b> due by <u>Monday 04/06 11:59pm</u> <a href="#">Wednesday</a> (04/08) Automation in Logic Pro X (cont.)  <a href="#">Friday</a> (04/10) Lab/Q&A
Week 14 (04/13-04/19)	<a href="#">Monday</a> (04/13) Lab/Q&A for Final Project  <b>Mixing Assignment 2</b> due by <u>Monday 04/13 11:59pm</u>  <a href="#">Wednesday</a> (04/15) Lab/Q&A for Final Project  <a href="#">Friday</a> (04/17) Lab/Q&A for Final Project
Week 15 (04/20-04/26)	<a href="#">Monday</a> (04/20) Lab/Q&A for Final Project  <a href="#">Wednesday</a> (04/22) Lab/Q&A for Final Project  <a href="#">Friday</a> (04/24) <b>NO CLASS (Reading Days)</b>

## Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the [“Get Started With the DRC” webpage](#) on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

## Technology

The use of cell phones during class is not permitted, nor is the use of computers for non-class-related activities. It is not only the instructor’s right, but their responsibility to remove obstacles to learning. Inappropriate technology use in class interrupts the student’s concentration, distracts other students, and is disrespectful to the instructor. Students accessing the textbook electronically on a tablet or laptop are asked to turn off notifications on their device, or, if possible, turn off wi-fi completely or close their web browser.

## Academic Policies & Resources

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:  
<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>