

# Intro to Electronic Music Syllabus

## Instructor -Mr. Denniston

### Welcome to Intro to Electronic Music

This syllabus describes official course policies and expectations and is a contract between student and teacher.

### Course Objectives

Operate basic hardware/virtual keyboard synthesizers, drum machines, simple mixers, and entry-level music software.

Understand and use introductory-level audio, synthesis, music software, and MIDI terminology.

Create musical projects in a variety of styles using synthesizers, drum machines, and MIDI sequencing software.

Design, implement, and troubleshoot basic audio and MIDI studio equipment configurations. Recognize and describe basic historical developments in electronic music.

### Description

**Introduction to Electronic Music** introduces the use of keyboard synthesizers, drum machines, and sequencing software to create music in a variety of styles; basic studio techniques; introduction to Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI); basic historical developments in electronic music; creation of music/audio projects using basic electronic music hardware and software. Some prior music experience is recommended but not required.

### Text and Materials

**Text book** – *No text is required* at the present time. Some course materials are available within the software that we use and links other web-based materials will be provided in class.

**Access to a computer** with a printer, web browser, and [Adobe](#) Acrobat Reader. You will use the electronic music lab computers for course-related work during your assigned class time.

Important: Some assignments must be downloaded from this website, completed, and uploaded to the server . *You must download and upload these materials **before they are due** and you must **notify the instructor immediately if technical problems interfere with this**. Problems downloading or uploading course materials at the last minute are not an excuse for missing deadlines*

**Personal headphones** with 1/8'' stereo phone plug (a.k.a. "iPod headphones") or other headphones and appropriate

adapter may be used *at all class sessions*.

**Optional but highly recommended: USB flash memory stick** or similar device (e.g. – writable CD/DVD media, external USB drive, etc.) is *strongly recommended but not required* to back up your work and move files between computers. Capacity of 1GB or larger is sufficient.

## Studio Rules

All electronic music students are responsible for reading, understanding, *and following* the studio rules. This is critical so that we can protect work of all students enrolled in this class. Violations of the studio rules may lead to *suspension of access to the studios* and other serious consequences.

**No unauthorized visitors** are allowed in the lab. Only currently enrolled electronic music students are allowed in the studio. No one else may enter the studio under any circumstances without advance permission from the instructor.

**No eating or drinking** in the lab. (Water in screw-top containers is allowed, but may not be kept on desks.) **Keep the studio neat** – clean up when you finish your session.

The lab computers are for **electronic music course work only**. Use the computer Lab in the library if you want to browse the web or check your email.

**Shut down your computer** at the end of the period before leaving the room. (Choose “Shut Down” from the Apple Menu at the upper left corner of the screen, and confirm this in the following dialog box.)

## Grading

**Written Tests** – Two written tests will be given – each is worth 15% of the total course grade. Tests count for 30% of the course grade.

**Quizzes** – Quizzes will be given several times during the term. Missed quizzes may not be made up, but one may be missed without penalty. Quizzes count for 20% of the course grade.

**Assignments and Projects** – Written and recorded assignments using class software and hardware will be due throughout the quarter. Other assignments may be based on assigned listening and/or reading. This work counts for 20% of the course grade.

**Final Project** – Final projects are due at the scheduled final exam session — see the course calendar below. (Note: Because this class meets on alternate days, the final session may be rescheduled by the instructor for either of the sessions. Attendance is required, so make early arrangements to avoid schedule conflicts. Project details are described elsewhere on the class website. Final projects are weighted at 30% of the course grade – but failure to complete a final project may result in a failing grade for the course. *Attendance at the full two-hour final exam session is required – no excuses!*

I use a weighted average system to determine your final course grade — not a point system. Assignment and course grades will use base letter grades A, B, C, D, and F and +/- symbols.

Let the instructor know immediately if you think you have received an incorrect grade. Grades may not be changed if you wait more than 72 hours after an assignment is handed back or after grades are posted on the web to bring errors to the instructor’s attention.

If an emergency interferes with completion of course work near the conclusion of the term *you must contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation*, including the possibility being assigned an “incomplete” grade in the course if appropriate. If you “disappear” at the end of the course you are subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.

## Attendance

Attendance may be taken at each class session. You are subject to being dropped from the class for excessive absences or tardies. However, there is no guarantee that you will automatically be dropped if you stop attending without notifying the instructor. You must contact the instructor immediately if you miss a class or if you decide to drop.

The actual number of missed or late classes that may cause you to be dropped varies depending upon how many days the class meets each week. Late arrival counts as half of an absence, so the threshold in a two day per week class is 4 late arrivals, and in a one day per week class it is two late arrivals.

**Final Exam Attendance:** You are required to be available for the scheduled final exam session as per this course green sheet and the college final exam schedule. Do not schedule events that conflict with the scheduled final exam session. You will not be excused

from the final exam nor will you be allowed to take it at an alternate time because you failed to note the date and time of the scheduled exam session. Be sure to schedule travel and other end-of-term events so that they do not conflict and jeopardize your course grade.

## Late Work

Assignments are late if they are not turned in **at the time the class session begins**. You are responsible for ensuring that you are on time on due dates – **arrive early** to make sure your work is not late. Better yet, turn your assignments in early.

Missed or late quizzes may **not** be made up, though one may be missed without lowering your grade since I do not include your lowest quiz grade in course grade calculations.

Make-up midterms may be possible for students who make **prior** arrangements with the instructor or who encounter a serious and unanticipated last-minute emergency.

Other late assignments may be **penalized** 1 letter grade for each class session after the due date.

Contact the instructor immediately when you encounter technical problems while working on a lab assignment. If a technical problem interferes with your completion of a project by the due date, there will be no late penalty **only if you contacted the instructor at the time the problem occurred**.

If an emergency interferes with completion of course work near the conclusion of the term *you must contact the instructor immediately to discuss the situation*, including the possibility being assigned an “incomplete” grade in the course if appropriate. If you “disappear” at the end of the course you are subject to receiving a failing grade in the course.

## Copying and Cheating

The majority of students join with faculty members in working to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. I take this issue very seriously, and consequences can and will be very serious for students who fail to observe these standards.

*A productive academic relationship between students and faculty and among students depends upon mutual trust and shared ethical values. Because serious violations of academic integrity standards call into question the integrity of all work submitted by the student, consequences are not limited to the specific work on which the violation is observed, and previously submitted work from students who are later found to have violated standards of academic integrity may be subject to reevaluation.*

## Cell Phones

Cell phone use during class is inappropriate and unacceptable. Having your phone on during class is a distraction to you and others in the classroom. **Turn off your cell phone and put it away** before entering the classroom. Setting your phone on “silent” or “vibrate” is *not turning it off* – “Turn it off” means turn it off.

There is **one exception to the rule**: *If you inform me before class that you have a real emergency and you must be on standby so that you can immediately deal with this emergency situation that would otherwise require you to miss class, I will give you one-time permission to leave your phone on and explain what to do when a call or text message arrives.*

## Calendar

Some assignment deadlines are not listed in the calendar, and they will be announced in class and during the course. The schedule is subject to change.