

# Music 246 Introduction to Creative Digital Music

## Instructor

Dr. Christopher Hopkins [hopkinsc@iastate.edu](mailto:hopkinsc@iastate.edu)

In-lab office hours: M/W 2:10 pm (Music Computer Lab)

## Prerequisites

A course in music theory fundamentals (Music 101, 105, or 221), or practical experience with musical terminology (such as scale systems, organization of tempo and rhythm) such as gained from study of an instrument or voice to perform from written scores. Consult the [course website](#).

## Course Description and Outcomes

Introduction to audio and MIDI software used in creating digital music. Includes fundamentals of audio waveform editing, processing, and mixing, MIDI data structures, practical projects in musical composition using a digital audio workstation.

Upon satisfactory completion of Music 246 students will be proficient in the following:

- editing and processing audio clips
- editing and processing MIDI data and MIDI clips
- automating sound design changes in virtual instruments
- designing a sound mix architecture
- designing creative timeline-based multi-track compositions

## Required Course Materials

Hagerman: Pro Tools LE 11 Ignite! ISBN: 9781285848211

## Course Policies

The computer platform and software to be used in the course is

Macintosh/OS (10.12 or above) and MIDI keyboard with standard controllers

Adobe Audition, Pro Tools 12, Max 7

(these computing resources will be provided in 052 Music Hall)

## Required Storage Media

Lab computers are wiped clean each night after the lab closes. All your personal files for assignments must be stored on your own media (portable hard drive, thumb drive) or copied to your own Cloud space (such as CyBox).

## Evaluation and Grading

Student work will be evaluated through technical projects (labs) and creative projects (compositions) and written examinations. The exams will cover information from lectures, labs, and assigned readings. The creative projects will be assigned a grade based on both creative extension (how far ideas are developed) and technical execution (how efficient is the sound editing and mix).

The grade for the course will be determined solely by the instructor, using the following guidelines:

10% Attendance and completion of technical labs  
40% Unit Creative Projects/Presentations (2)  
30% Unit Exams (2)  
20% Final Creative Project

## Course Policies

### Required Computer Platform and Software

Because in-class discussions and presentations need to be based on a common vocabulary and consistency in practical techniques, students may not substitute alternate software for assignments, projects, and presentations.

Students may complete assignments using the designated course software in other facilities, including their own computer systems, but must be able to demonstrate and discuss every aspect of editing, processing, and mixture using the software, computers, and keyboards provided in the music computer lab—each project must be open to examination of its constructive details and must run live during the presentation (not as a bounced-down recording produced with other software).

Because software used in this course may not be able to open files produced in earlier versions of the same software, students should take particular care not to update their own systems to a version in advance of that currently installed in the lab. To retain system-wide compatibility between several software packages the lab often will not use the latest update.

All technical problems related to transfer of files from systems outside the resources designated for the course (056 Music Hall, Canvas, and Cybox) are the full responsibility of the student. Neither the instructor nor the lab support staff are required to solve problems related to students' personal computers, storage devices, or cloud services (other than CyBox).

### Completion of Coursework

Unexcused late work will not be accepted. All creative labs and unit projects must be presented to the class on the dates due. Students may not defer the presentation of their projects except as arranged within the context of a documented excused absence.

Assignments will be considered complete after they are turned in to the course dropbox and opened for presentation on lab systems. Files required for presentation of the project must actually open and run for the project to be considered fulfilled and assigned a passing grade.

If a valid documented excuse exists for the failure to present the final project as scheduled, the instructor will determine the method of compensation in calculating the grade for the course.

Grades of Incomplete (I) will be granted only in accordance with university policy. In general, incompletes may be granted in cases of medical or family emergency and must be supported by a valid written excuse. Students may not be failing the course at the time of requesting a contract for an I grade.

## Uniform University Policies

### Academic Dishonesty

The class will follow Iowa State University's policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Dean of Students Office](#).

### Accessibility Statement

Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to meet with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes. Eligible students will be provided with a Notification Letter for each course and reasonable accommodations will be arranged after timely delivery of the Notification Letter to the instructor. Students are encouraged to deliver Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible. SAS, a unit in the Dean of Students Office, is located in room 1076, Student Services Building or online at [www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu). Contact SAS by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto:accessibility@iastate.edu) or by phone at 515-294-7220 for additional information.

#### Dead Week

This class follows the Iowa State University Dead Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the [Faculty Handbook](#).

#### Discrimination and Harassment

Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email [eooffice@iastate.edu](mailto:eooffice@iastate.edu)

#### Religious Accommodation

Iowa State University strives to reasonably accommodate students who's sincerely held religious beliefs or creed conflict with academic requirements. Accommodation requests must be made proactively. The process for requesting an accommodation is interactive and the process must be initiated by the individual seeking the accommodation. For optimal consideration, students should inform instructors as soon as possible in the semester of a course conflict. It is recommended that the student and instructor discuss the request in person and then document the resolution in an email format. Assistance throughout the process for all parties involved is available through the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) at 515-294-7612.

#### Contact Information

If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above issues, email [academicissues@iastate.edu](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu)