

Intro to Music Technology | Fall 2017

Prof. Kris Tiner

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Class website: kristiner.com/classes/music-b30

Bakersfield College

MUSC B30 - 02

CRN 72254

Fridays 9:35AM-12:45PM

Room: PAC-115

3 Credits

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain the fundamentals of sound including waveforms, frequency, amplitude, and harmonics.
2. Demonstrate a conceptual and practical understanding of MIDI hardware, software, and sequencing.
3. Gain basic experience with the principles digital signal processing.
4. Identify and discuss basic principles of digital audio workstations.
5. Describe the properties and components of audio recording systems.

These outcomes will be assessed through in-class writing demonstrations, out-of-class learning demonstrations, and creative projects.

Course Description

This course introduces the basics of how technology and music interact. There will be an emphasis on audio software and hardware, basic principles of sound, digital audio workstations, MIDI, synthesis, and sequencing. Particular attention will be paid toward making connections between analog and digital technological contexts. Lab activity consists of self-directed projects which make use of software and hardware found in the typical digital audio studio.

Required Materials

An Introduction to Music Technology, by Dan Hosken
2nd Ed. 2015, Routledge, ISBN 978-0415825733

Logic Pro X 10.3: Apple Pro Training Series: Professional Music Production, by David Nahmani
2017, Peachpit Press, ISBN 978-0134785103

Online Resources

Class website: kristiner.com/classes/music-b30

Textbook companion site: www.routledge.com/cw/hosken

Logic Pro X Help: help.apple.com/logicpro/mac/10.3

Portfolio Site

Music B30 students will create a personal portfolio website using Wordpress or a similar platform. Your site must include the following sections: *Home, Bio, Portfolio, Contact*.

Exams and Assignments

Portfolio Assignments (10 x 60 points each) – 60% of Final Grade

Over the course of this semester you will complete ten assignments and post them to your portfolio site. For each assignment include screenshots of the Logic project, an embedded audio file, and a brief description of things you found helpful and any tips you can share. Students will present their assignments to the class on the dates indicated in the course schedule below. You must be prepared to show your assignment on the specified day or you will receive a zero grade. Assignments can be worked on during lab time in class, during lab open hours, or outside of class. Take your time and plan ahead. Choose one of these two options for how you will build your portfolio:

- ▶ **Option 1:** Do all 10 lessons in the Nahmani book.
- ▶ **Option 2:** Do the first 5 lessons in Nahmani book and do 5 creative projects between each lesson, using knowledge obtained in the previous lesson and incorporating similar elements.

Portfolio Assignment Grading Rubric:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Competent</i>	<i>Needs Work</i>
<i>Preparedness and Organization</i> (30 pts)	Evidence of preparation. Organized structure, follows project guidelines. (20-30 pts)	Minimal evidence of preparation and effort. (10-19 pts)	Little to no evidence of preparation or effort. (0-9 pts)
<i>Proper Format</i> (30 pts)	Text is legible, screenshots included, audio plays on the post. (20-30 pts)	General legibility with missing components. (10-19 pts)	Improper format. (0-9 pts)

In-Class Quizzes (4 x 100 points each) – 40% of Final Grade

Each of the four in-class quizzes will include short answer and short essay questions on material from the lectures and assigned reading. Quiz dates are included in the course schedule below. No make-ups will be given for missed quizzes. Students who miss a quiz are advised to take advantage of the extra credit offered below.

Grading Scale

There is no curve. Final grades are assigned based on a 1,000-point scale:

900+	A
800–899	B
700–799	C
600–699	D
0–599	F

Extra Credit Film Review

Watch one of the following music documentaries: *Muscle Shoals*, *Tom Dowd and the Language of Music*, or *The Wrecking Crew*. These should all be available on Netflix or iTunes. Submit a written review of the film that references concepts we are taking up in this course. Each review should be a minimum of two full pages, typed and double-spaced. Each review is worth up to 50 points extra credit.

Attendance Policy

District policies require instructors to drop all non-attending students. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting. Students have up to 24 hours after an absence to email the instructor with a valid excuse. Absences will only be excused for serious and/or compelling reasons. After the equivalent of two weeks (six class hours) of unexcused absences, or any unexcused absence during the first two weeks of the semester, the student will be dropped from the class.

In the case of an unavoidable absence it is the student's responsibility to keep up with the class progress, download any missed handouts from the class website, and obtain a copy of the lecture notes from another student. Lectures and slide shows will not be posted online. Lecture topics and reading assignments are listed in the course schedule below. The grading scale is clearly presented in this syllabus so that students will be able to track their own progress in the course. If you have a specific question or concern, please make an appointment to meet with the instructor during office hours.

Communication

It is important that students check their college-assigned email account regularly. When sending email to krtiner@bakersfieldcollege.edu please be sure to include **MUSIC B30** in the subject line.

When emailing your instructors, a little bit of courtesy and professionalism goes a LONG way. State your request clearly, be respectful, and don't use informal language or texting abbreviations, emojis, etc.

Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing accommodation, including those who had an IEP in high school, should make requests to Disabled Students Programs and Services in CSS-10 (661-395-4334). Requests for accommodations require appropriate advance notice to avoid a delay in services. Please discuss approved accommodations with me so we can work together to ensure your access and success at BC.

Classroom Protocol and Academic Integrity

- ▶ Bring your textbooks, notebook, this syllabus and all handouts to each class.
- ▶ Mobile phones and personal electronic devices (including laptops) will be turned OFF or set to SILENT and put away during lectures and exams.
- ▶ To preserve academic freedom for both the instructor and students, video and audio recording of lectures is not permitted.
- ▶ As per campus policy, food, candy, and beverages are not allowed in PAC-115.
- ▶ Please do not wear strongly scented perfume or cologne in class - it's not fun for people with allergies.
- ▶ Leaving class early is an unwelcome disruption, and it constitutes an unexcused absence, unless your reason for leaving has been cleared with the instructor in advance.
- ▶ Plagiarizing, cheating, or other forms of academic dishonesty will result in a zero grade on the assignment, and may lead to a failing grade in the course and further disciplinary action by the College.
- ▶ Final grades earned in this course cannot be changed once posted, except in case of a clerical error.
- ▶ By enrolling in this course, you agree to the conditions of this syllabus. Please consider dropping the course if you are unable to meet these conditions.
- ▶ Should you choose to drop, it is your responsibility to notify Admissions and Records and also communicate your decision to the instructor.

COURSE SCHEDULE

- ❖ *Complete all reading assignments before each class session.*
- ❖ *Supplemental readings will be distributed in class or linked from the class website.*
- ❖ *This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.*

DATE	READING in HOSKEN	LECTURE TOPIC	OPTION 1	OPTION 2
Aug 25	Introductions	Syllabus, Creating a WordPress site, Intro to Logic Pro		
Sep 1	Ch. 1, 2, 3	Sound, Properties, and Overtones		
Sep 8		Presentations	L1	L1, CP1
Sep 15	Ch. 4	Audio Software	Quiz 1	
Sep 22	Ch. 5	Audio Hardware		
Sep 29		Presentations	L2, L3	L2, CP2
Oct 6	Ch. 6, 7	Digital Audio Data, Audio: What do I need?	Quiz 2	
Oct 13	PANORAMA CREATIVE MUSIC SUMMIT Students assist with theater setup. Workshop time TBA.			
Oct 20		Presentations	L4, L5	L3, CP3
Oct 27	Ch. 8	Software Instruments, Sequencing	Quiz 3	
Nov 3	Ch. 11, <i>Intro to Logic Studio Instruments</i>	A Basic Synthesis Model		
Nov 10	VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY			
Nov 17		Presentations	L6, L7	L4, CP4
Nov 24	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY			
Dec 1	Ch. 13	Logic ESX24, Sampling	Quiz 4	
Dec 8		Finals week: Presentations begin at 10AM	L8, L9, L10	L5, CP5

INTRO TO LOGIC PRO X

- I. Logic Pro Introduction
 - A. **Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) + MIDI sequencer** for the Mac
 - B. Introduced as an Apple product in 2002
 - C. Uses the same audio engine and basic interface as GarageBand
 - D. Useful for every aspect of music creation, from initial sketch to final mix

- II. Overview
 - A. Opening Logic Pro
 - 1. **Project chooser:** create new or open existing project
 - B. **Tracks** area
 - 1. Track types: up to 255 depending on system performance
 - a) **Audio track:** microphone or live instrument
 - b) **Software instrument:** via MIDI or command-K for musical typing (open w/Library)
 - c) **Drummer:** virtual drummers that automatically play along with your track
 - 2. Importing tracks
 - a) **Loop browser:** audition/add prerecorded Apple loops to your project
 - b) **Media browser:** browse computer hard drive for audio files and movies (for video sync)
 - 3. **Regions**
 - a) building blocks of a project, can be arranged and edited
 - b) audio regions display wave forms; MIDI regions display note events; vert/horiz zoom
 - C. Control bar
 - 1. Access buttons L-R
 - a) **Library:** choose patch (instrument, effects, and routing settings) for selected track
 - b) **Inspector:** view/edit parameters for selected region, track, etc.
 - c) **Quick help:** turn on to show a description of anything you hover over.
 - d) **Smart controls:** adjust sound/EQ of selected track on the fly.
 - e) **Mixer:** adjust channel strip settings, add/edit plug-ins
 - f) **Editors:** for individual tracks and regions
 - (1) Piano roll editor: displays MIDI data as editable regions
 - (2) Audio track editor: copy/paste/move/trim/split/join waveforms
 - (3) Score editor: displays MIDI regions as editable music notation
 - 2. Transport/playback/record/cycle controls
 - 3. LCD display
 - a) set project tempo, key, time signature
 - 4. Tuner/Count-in/Metronome
 - 5. Master volume slider
 - 6. Note pads
 - 7. Loop browser: search prerecorded Apple Loops to add to your project
 - 8. Media browser: browse your computer or connected drive for audio files and movies

- III. Saving and sharing projects
 - A. Save as / Bounce to audio file / Burn to CD / Export / Share