

Lecture Contact Hours: 32-36; Outside-of-Class Hours: 64-72;  
Laboratory Contact Hours: 48-54; Outside-of-Class Hours: 0;  
Total Student Learning Hours: 144-162

**CUYAMACA COLLEGE**  
**COURSE OUTLINE OF RECORD**

**Music 120 – Introduction to Music Technology**

2 hours lecture, 2 units  
3 hours laboratory, 1 unit  
Total units: 3 units

**Catalog Description**

Introduction to the basic concepts and processes for editing digital audio and using the digital synthesizer and personal computer to perform, notate and record music. Students should have basic computer skills, basic piano or keyboard skills, and be able to read music.

**Recommended Preparation**

“C” grade or higher or “Pass” in MUS 001 or equivalent

**Entrance Skills**

Without the following skills, competencies and/or knowledge, students entering this course will be highly unlikely to succeed:

- 1) Recognize and analyze the elements of musical notation.

**Course Content**

- 1) Basic hardware and software in a digital audio workstation (DAW); components, interfaces, connections
- 2) Introduction to digital audio including sampling, file formats and editing
- 3) Introduction to music notation software including installation, file structure, capabilities and menus
- 4) Introduction to the Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) protocol including General MIDI, General MIDI 2 and basic sequencing

**Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the basic components of a digital audio workstation.
- 2) Perform simple musical selections on the synthesizer employing different timbres and automated accompaniment.
- 3) Capture and edit samples of digital audio from live and recorded sources.
- 4) Create, edit, and mix a multi-track recording using sequencing software.
- 5) Recreate a standard musical score, including articulation and expression marks, using notation software.

**Method of Evaluation**

A grading system will be established by the instructor and implemented uniformly. Grades will be based on demonstrated proficiency in subject matter determined by multiple measurements for evaluation, one of which must be essay exams, skills demonstration or, where appropriate, the symbol system.

- 1) Quizzes, exams and homework assignments that measure the students' ability to recognize and explain the functions of the components of a digital audio workstation.
- 2) Musical performance exercises that measure the students' ability to exploit the various timbres available on the digital synthesizer with creativity and imagination.

- 3) Assignments that measure the students' ability to record, edit and save digital audio files in various file formats.
- 4) Musical sequencing portfolio projects that demonstrate the students' mastery of the basic processes involved in multi-track recording using a sequencer.
- 5) Notation assignments that measure the students' ability to express precise musical ideas involving pitch, rhythm and articulation using music notation software.

**Special Materials Required of Student**

None

**Minimum Instructional Facilities**

Smart computer lab equipped with multi-timbral synthesizer, stereo audio system, videotape/DVD player

**Method of Instruction**

- 1) Lecture, discussion and demonstration
- 2) Small and large group discussion
- 3) In-class activities

**Out-of-Class Assignments**

- 1) **Reading:** course materials; other course related multimedia.
- 2) **Writing:** short answer worksheets covering assigned reading.
- 3) **Other:** project assignments; performing; recording; notating musical examples.

**Texts and References**

- 1) Required (representative example): Comprehensive music technology text such as the following:  
Jones, Heath. *Music Technology 101: The Basics of Music Production in the Technology Lab or Home Studio*. Hal Leonard, 2021.
- 2) Supplemental: None

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Identify and explain the functions of the components of a digital audio workstation.
- 2) Use a digital audio workstation to create, notate and record musical examples.