Nashville State Community College  
English, Humanities and Creative Technologies  
Music Technology  

Fall 2019 Master Course Syllabus  

MST 1370 – Audio Effects Processors

(This master course syllabus template is a general guide for providing an overview of each course offered at Nashville State. Each instructor will further clarify specific criteria for grading, classroom procedures, attendance, exams and dates, etc. on his/her individual course syllabus. Prompts for individual adaptations are italicized and in parentheses; faculty should remove or replace these prompts when creating master syllabi and their own individual syllabi if they have not been removed previously.)

Course Information:

Course Title: MST 1370 – Audio Effects Processors  
Credits: 3  
Class Hours: 2 Class Hours, 2 Lab Hours

Course Description:

An introduction to computer-based music and audio production. Topics include digital audio workstation technology, system setup, sound design, music editing, production techniques, and mix automation.  
Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

Instructor Information:

Name: Eric Richardson  
Email: eric.richardson@nscc.edu  
Office Phone: (615) 353-3467  
Office Location: C-107G  
Office Hours:  
  Monday  09:00 am – 03:00 pm  
  Tuesday None  
  Wednesday 11:00 am – 01:00 pm  
  Thursday 11:00 am – 04:00 pm  
  Friday 09:00 am – 02:30 pm
Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:


ISBN: 978-1138859784

Reference Materials: Internet access outside of normal class hours may be required to complete some homework assignments and quiz activities. Students that do not have Internet access may need to schedule time in the college computer labs. Students will have access to digital copies of reference guides in the content section of the course shell or at manufacturer websites.

Supplies: 4GB or larger USB Flash Drive, 6-8 blank CD-R discs, 1-2” binder, 12 ct. colored pencils or markers.

Once enrolled, all students should verify that they have the correct textbook and materials information by consulting the D2L/NS Online shell for the course. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or accesscenter@nscc.edu.

Course Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
  1. Accurately explain the function of commonly used audio effects processors.
  2. Demonstrate the appropriate and creative use of audio effects processors.
  3. Apply dynamic effects processing techniques to create appropriate and interesting sounding results within a digital audio production software environment.
  4. Apply time-based effects processing techniques to create appropriate and interesting sounding results within a digital audio production software environment.
  5. Analyze a recording for sonic deficiencies and creative possibilities and formulate an ideal course of action.

Course Competencies:
The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:
  1. Demonstrate the ability to configure noise-gate/expanders for given audio applications.
  2. Demonstrate the ability to configure compressor/limiters for given audio applications.
  3. Demonstrate the ability to configure multiband dynamic processors for given audio applications.
4. Demonstrate the ability to apply the side-chain capabilities of dynamic processors for given audio applications.
5. Demonstrate the ability to configure high-pass and low-pass filters for given audio applications.
6. Demonstrate the ability to configure shelving equalizers for given audio applications.
7. Demonstrate the ability to configure peak/bell equalizers for given audio applications.
8. Demonstrate the ability to configure multiband equalizers for given audio applications.
9. Demonstrate the ability to configure delay effects processors for a number given audio applications.
10. Demonstrate the ability to configure modulation effects processors for a number given audio applications.
11. Demonstrate the ability to configure reverb effects processors for a number given audio applications.
12. Demonstrate the ability to combine dynamic and time-based effects processors for a number given audio applications.
13. Demonstrate the ability to configure simulator and modeling effects processors for a number given audio applications.
14. Demonstrate the ability to configure pitch shift and harmonizer effects processors for a number given audio applications.
15. Demonstrate the ability to configure aural exciter and enhancer effects processors for a number given audio applications.
16. Demonstrate the ability to configure multi-effects processors for a number given audio applications.
17. Demonstrate the ability to configure external effects processors for a number given audio applications.
18. Demonstrate the efficient use of digital signal processing power.
19. Demonstrate the ability to create and manage effects processor libraries and presets.
20. Demonstrate the ability to render effects processor settings to audio track playlists.
21. Demonstrate the ability to transport user created effects processor presets between digital audio workstations.
22. Demonstrate the effective use of effects processor automation capabilities.
23. Match effects processor formats to compatible digital audio workstations.
24. Explain the various software-effects processor registration and authorization procedures.
The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Prepare clear, well-organized signal-flow diagrams for a number of signal processor scenarios.
2. Apply scientific thought processes to make appropriate audio signal flow decisions in computer-based editing and mixing activities.
3. Locate, evaluate, and use multiple sources of information to design complex computer-based recording studios that meet specific production requirements.
4. Use critical thinking skills to select appropriate audio processing strategies during student projects.
5. Use and adapt current software technologies to create interesting and appropriate sounding results.

Topics to Be Covered:

1. Registration and Authorization Procedures
2. Effects Processor Preset Library Management
3. Rendering Effects Processors
4. Equalizers
5. Expander-Gates
6. Compressor-Limiters
7. Multiband Dynamic Processors
8. Delay Effects
9. Modulation Effects
10. Reverbs
11. Other Signal Processors
12. External Signal Processors

Course Assessments:
The following performance assessments will be used to demonstrate students’ understanding, knowledge, and skills:

Quizzes, exams, labs, projects, participation, and worksheets. (See the course online grade book in NS Online and the attached printout)

Grading Policy:
Final grades are based on participation, quizzes, exams, labs, projects, and mastery of skills.
Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work:

Students should contact the instructor regarding opportunities to make-up missed assignments, labs, quizzes, and exams.

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and laboratories. Absences in a course may affect a student’s final grade. The student is responsible for all assigned work in the course regardless of excused or unexcused absences. Tardiness may also affect a student’s final grade.

In online courses, attendance is signaled by logging on to the D2L/NS Online shell, participating as prompted (e.g., responding to an instructor’s email, posting to a discussion board) and/or completing and submitting assignments. Campus closures do not affect attendance and assignment completion in online courses.

Attendance is a very important to the success of students in this class. Each week students are assigned graded activities that are to be completed in class. The instructor may provide an opportunity to make up a missed assignment or two. However it is a student’s responsibility to adapt their schedule to take advantage of an instructor scheduled make-up opportunity.

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FA

According to NSCC policy, an FA is awarded to students who do not officially withdraw from a course and do not attend after the cut-off date provided in the academic calendar. Please refer to the current academic calendar available on the Nashville State web site, looking for the date that indicates it is the “Last Day to Earn F for Attendance (FA).” Students who stop attending on or before this date receive an FA; students who stop attending after this date receive an F.

For online courses, attendance is defined by submission of assignments. Students who fail a course and whose last assignment is submitted on or before the FA date will earn an FA for the course. Students who fail a course and whose last assignment is submitted after the FA date will earn an F for the course. An FN is assigned to students who do not submit any assignments.
Last Day to Earn F for Attendance (FA) - March 22, 2019

FN
An FN is awarded to students who never attended class.

Technology Statement
Nashville State’s classes are considered to be web-enhanced. Faculty have an expectation that students will use a computer and the Internet to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells. Computers are available for student use at each campus during campus open hours.

D2L/NS Online and myNSCC
It is students’ responsibility to check D2L/NS Online course shells for all enrolled courses and myNSCC, including student email, on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and students, who are responsible for the information communicated through those channels. D2L/NS Online contains specific course information and myNSCC contains information important for other purposes.

ADA Compliance Statement
Nashville State complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721, or e-mail accesscenter@nscc.edu. If you are registered with the Access Center and require an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center.

Classroom Misconduct
Nashville State Community College has a zero-tolerance policy for disruptive conduct in the classroom. Students whose behavior disrupts the classroom will be subject to disciplinary measures. Please review the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct policy. Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

Academic Misconduct
Any form of academic dishonesty, cheating, plagiarizing, or other academic misconduct is prohibited. Students are responsible for understanding and abiding by the Academic Misconduct Policy in the Nashville State Student Code of Conduct. In addition to other possible disciplinary measures that may be applied through regular college procedures as a result of academic dishonesty, the instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination, or to assign an “F” for the course. Students may appeal through the appropriate college grade appeal procedures.

Instances of academic dishonesty will result in the instructor assigning an “F” or a “zero” for the exercise, paper, or examination.
Academic Early Alert System
Nashville State Community College uses an Early Alert System to let students know of a faculty member’s concern in one or more of these academic areas: lack of attendance, lack of classroom participation, late or missing assignments, and/or poor performance on assignments/tests. *Please note that Early Alerts do not affect a student’s academic standing. If you receive an Early Alert email, please see your instructor and your academic advisor as soon as possible.

RAVE Emergency Alert System
Emergency events can happen at any time and Nashville State Community College wants to be able to notify students if and when they occur. For this reason, all students have been enrolled in the free RAVE alert system. If you have not already done so, please log in at https://www.getrave.com/login/nscc to confirm and update your contact information and notification preferences. It is critical that your information be correct so that you will receive any emergency notifications. Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address. If you’ve never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you. Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

Inclement Weather & Campus Closings
Nashville State will use the RAVE alert system to send a text message to students, staff, and faculty about adjusted hours of operation and/or closings at individual campuses. All students should check the Nashville State web site home page at www.nscc.edu for announcements on campus closures, which may vary from campus to campus. Campus closures will also be announced on local television stations. Students should use their own best judgment in determining whether to report to campus during inclement weather when classes are not cancelled.

Even when campuses are closed, students are still responsible for completing all assigned work. When classes are cancelled, faculty will post online assignments and any additional instructions in the D2L/NS Online course shell. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor regarding your online assignment requirements. Faculty have discretion over adjusting deadlines or due date for assignments, but students are responsible for completing all assigned work by the due date established by the instructor.

Class Cancellation Policy
If the class is cancelled, the instructor will notify all students by posting in the D2L/NS Online course, e-mailing through D2L/NS Online, and/or by posting a sign on the classroom door. In the event of class cancellation, students must access D2L/NS Online to complete classwork and the assignment that will be posted in the course D2L site.