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

Fall 2019 Master Course Syllabus

MST 1400 – The Art of Mixing

(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 1400 – The Art of Mixing
Credits: 3
Class Hours: 2 Class Hours, 2 Lab Hours

Course Description:

A practical course in mixing music. Topics include monitoring practices, musical balance, creative editing and effects processing, critical listening, and preparing recordings for mastering. Students will mix a variety of musical styles and develop a mixing portfolio. Prerequisite(s): MST 1240 and Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s): MST 1360, MST 1370

Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

Instructor Information:

Name:
Email:
Office Phone:
Office Location
Office Hours: Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
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. Demonstrate the ability to listen critically and apply that to the mixing process.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of challenges and solutions relating to the monitoring environment.
3. Demonstrate the application of creative editing and processing techniques.
4. Successfully mix a variety of musical styles to industry standards.

Course Competencies:
The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Identify specific frequency ranges by ear.
2. Analyze the sound quality of instruments and vocals and apply appropriate equalization, where applicable.
3. Analyze the dynamics of instruments and vocals and apply appropriate dynamic processing, where applicable.
4. Identify a variety of musical instruments by ear.
5. Identify and formulate strategies for solving masking problems.
6. Identify and solve bass management problems.
7. Identify the effects of playing the same mix on different monitor speakers.
8. Identify the effects of playing the same mix in different acoustic environments.
9. Describe the equal loudness principle (Fletcher-Munson curves) and its effect on monitoring and decision-making during the mixing process.

10. Identify mixing techniques used to create selected mixes.

11. Identify mixing techniques unique to specific musical genres.

12. Correctly route signals for the most efficient signal flow.

13. Correctly set up gain structure for optimum sound quality.

14. Describe the difference between analog and digital metering.

15. Describe the primary differences between analog and digital consoles as they relate to mixing techniques.

16. Describe the sections and functions of a mixing console, such as sends, masters and sub-masters, the stereo buss, etc.

17. Demonstrate the effective use of the various sections of software and hardware based mixing consoles.

18. Balance instruments and vocals appropriately for different musical styles.

19. Use panning effectively to create stereo interest in a mix.

20. Explain the importance of using stereo dynamic processing on stereo material.

21. Demonstrate appropriate use of stereo dynamic processing on stereo material.

22. Explain the importance of riding vocals and solos.

23. Demonstrate the effective use of automation and clip gain as specified.

24. Demonstrate the effective use of send and plug-in automation as specified.

25. Demonstrate the effective use of time-based effects processors to create as specified.

26. Create depth and width in a stereo mix, using time-based effects.

27. Demonstrate corrective and creative editing techniques to improve the quality of a mix as specified.

28. Demonstrate effective use of parallel processing as specified.

29. Demonstrate the appropriate use of master buss processing on mixes as specified.
The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Prepare clear, well-organized signal-flow diagrams for a number of mixing scenarios.
2. Apply scientific thought processes to make appropriate audio signal flow decisions in the computer-based mix environment.
3. Use critical thinking skills to apply appropriate mixing strategies during student mix projects.
4. Use and adapt current software technologies to create interesting and appropriate sounding mixes that meet industry standards.

**Topics to Be Covered:**
1. Critical Listening
2. Psychoacoustics
3. Mix Methods
4. Control Room and Monitoring Concerns
5. Meters and Levels
6. Hardware and Software Mixers
7. Phase and Polarity
8. Mixing Tools
9. Analyzing and Evaluating Mixes
10. Application of Audio Effects Processors
11. Multiband Dynamic Processors
12. Automation
13. Mixing
14. Delivery of Mixes to the Client and Mastering Engineer

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

Quizzes, exams, labs, projects, participation, and worksheets.

**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>
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</tbody>
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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 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.