

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

Fall 2022 Master Course Syllabus

MST-1400 The Art of Mixing

The purpose of the syllabus is to tell you how the course is organized, what the expectations are, and how you will be graded. In addition, there is important information about how the college will operate during severe weather and how the college will communicate with you. The syllabus is not a contract. Instead, it is meant to help you succeed in this course. If any of the content changes during the semester, you will be notified.

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 1150](#) and **Prerequisite(s) or Corequisite(s):** [MST 1250](#) Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

Instructor Information:

Name:

Email:

Office Phone:

Office Location:

Office Hours:

Instructor Zoom Room link:

Class Session Zoom Link Information (if virtual):

Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:

Textbook(s): Mixing Audio: Concepts, Practices and Tools, 3rd Edition, Focal Press, (Izhaki)
ISBN: 978-1138859784

Access Code: To be determined by the instructor.

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: 8GB or larger USB Flash Drive, 1-2" binder, colored pencils, highlighters or markers.

Once you have registered for your courses, you should make sure you have the correct textbook and materials for each course. Before courses begin, you can do this by looking up your courses on the bookstore's website (<https://www.bkstr.com/nscstore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials>) using your A# or by entering your course information. If you are registered with the Access Center and need an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or accesscenter@nsc.edu

Digital Course Materials: These ensure you pay less for your course materials and have easy access through D2L throughout the semester. When you registered for this course, the charge for these materials appeared on your account. If you decide you do not want to purchase the course materials embedded in NS Online, you can opt out of the program **until the end of the second week of classes**. If you opt out, you will be responsible for purchasing the required course materials on your own. For more information, please visit www.nsc.edu/dcm.

Honors Option: Honors credit is available in some classes. If you are interested in participating in the Honors Program, please see your instructor within the first four weeks of class.

Course Outcomes: At the end of the semester, this is what you should know and/or be able to do:

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, or specific skills or knowledge, intended to help you achieve 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 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: We will use the following assessments to demonstrate your understanding, knowledge, and skills:

Labs, projects, quizzes, exams, video certificates, and worksheets will be used to assess your mastery of this course. For a detailed breakdown see the online grade book in the NS Online course shell for this course.

Grading Policy:

Final grades are based on class participation, worksheets, assignments, labs, projects, quizzes, & exams. These activities will be used to determine mastery of skills and concepts.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Final grades are calculated using a 1000-point system

Final Letter Grade	Final Grade Point Range
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	0-599

FA

If you stop attending class or if you are in an online class and stop submitting assignments, but do not turn in a withdrawal form by the deadline, you are still enrolled in class. You will be given a grade of FA, which means you have failed due to not attending class and not completing your assignments. 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).” If you stop attending your course after this date, you will receive an F.

Last date to earn an F for attendance is XXXX, 2022.

FN

An FN is awarded if you have never attended your course or done any of the work in an online course.

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 complete assigned coursework prior to deadlines. To do so, students should fully participate in each class meeting. If a student needs to be absent from a class, please contact the instructor to arrange virtual participation or a plan to make-up missed work.

General Policy

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive, you must email virusinfo@nsc.edu.

- *Absences in a course may affect your final grade.*
- *Tardiness may also affect your final grade.*
- *You are responsible for all work/tests that occur during any missed course session(s) regardless of reason(s) for absence.*
- *If you are not well enough to attend a course session (class), you must notify the instructor as soon as possible before the scheduled course time.*
 - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*
- *If you have an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled course session, you must notify the instructor before the course session.*
 - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*

Instructor's Policy

The attendance policy for this course is: Students are expected to complete assigned coursework prior to deadlines. To do so, students should fully participate in each class meeting. If a student

needs to be absent from a class, please contact the instructor to arrange virtual participation or a plan to make-up missed work.

For financial aid purposes, **attendance** is measured by participation in the course. Instructors can determine your level of participation in several ways. Some of those ways are:

- continued attendance
- participation in on-ground or virtual class sessions
- participating in D2L as prompted
- responding to an instructor's email
- posting to a discussion board
- completing and submitting assignments

Technology Statement

- All classes at the College are web enhanced. "Web enhanced" means that components of the course, such as assignments and online discussions, may be located online in the class D2L/NS Online course shell and used in the course, even if the course meets in a classroom on ground.
- You must have access to a computer and an internet connection to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells.
- You may also be required to use free video conferencing platforms (examples: Zoom, Teams, etc.) for course sessions and meetings.
- You will be responsible for appropriate dress while on video. This means that you are expected to dress as if you were in a classroom.
- You will be responsible for a distraction free environment while on video. This means that the professor and others in the course should not be able to hear noise in your home, such as cell phones, TVs, or barking dogs. The best way to do this is to keep yourself on "mute" until you need to speak.
- You will be responsible for making sure your background is neutral. Keep in mind that students and professors come from all around the world, and you are all a part of our community. Therefore, please avoid having images in your background that may be offensive to your classmates.
- Certain publisher materials, such as textbook figures, may not work on cellphones and may require a laptop or a tablet.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding access to a computer or internet resources, please contact your instructor. Additional information is available on this website: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources/access-to-internet-and-technology>.

Computer Labs

Computers are available for all Nashville State students to use at each campus during open hours. Open computer lab availability may vary from campus to campus.

You should check the NSCC website for current hours of operation.

D2L/NS Online and myNSCC

It is your responsibility to check your email in **both** D2L/NS Online course shells and your @my.nsc.edu (student email) on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and you. You are responsible for the information communicated through these email channels. D2L/NS Online emails contain specific course information and @my.nsc.edu emails contain important information from college offices, such as Financial Aid.

ADA Compliance Statement

If you need accommodations due to a disability, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Access Center. Disabilities for which you can receive accommodations include documented physical, emotional, and/or learning conditions. Nashville State is committed to supporting your success, and we encourage you to get assistance if needed. 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@nsc.edu.

Classroom Misconduct

Disruptive conduct is not allowed in the classroom. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents students from learning and interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach. This may change from course to course; therefore, your individual instructors will give you guidance on what qualifies as “disruptive conduct” in their courses. 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

You have started this academic journey to prepare for a future career. Because of this, it is important that you learn the materials being presented in your courses. For this reason, cheating, in any form, robs you of your opportunity to learn and master the material that will enable you to succeed in that future career. Nashville State has a clear [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) that you are expected to follow. In addition, your instructors will clarify what Academic Misconduct looks like and the consequences for violations in each course that you take. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for such violations or for the semester grade.

The 1st instance of academic misconduct in this course will result in a F or a zero for the activity
The 2nd instance of academic misconduct will result in a F for the semester.

Academic Early Alert System

If you are not doing well in your course, your instructor may send you an Early Alert through your @my.nsc.edu email. This email will go to your academic advisor and Student Success advisor, as well. If you get an Early Alert, contact your instructor immediately. Instructors send these when they want to help you figure out how to get extra support to pass the course. An

Early Alert does not mean that you have already failed the course. Rather, it means you are in danger of failing the course if you do not change your learning strategy. Please use an Early Alert to your advantage and as an opportunity to improve your grade.

RAVE Emergency Alert System

You can log in to this free alert system to receive text messages about emergencies related to NSCC campuses: <https://www.getrave.com/login/nscc>. The instructions for this are listed below.

- 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.

Student Wellness

Your well-being is important to us. With this in mind, the college has several resources available to provide support when needed:

- Free tutoring: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/learning-center-and-tutoring>
- NSCC email, scheduling, online courses, textbooks, tech check out and support, computer labs on campuses, academic advising, financial advising, COVID-19 information and procedures on campuses: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources>
- Services that help with bus passes, food, childcare, textbooks, housing, financial counseling, personal counseling, suicide prevention, health insurance: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/student-support-services>

Equity Statement

We are taking steps to become more aware of the many different needs of students. Faculty, staff and administrators are committed to helping students find ways to meet their needs so that ALL students can reach their goals. Please ask for things you need.

Inclement Weather & Campus Closings

You get notices about campus closings in these places: text messages from RAVE and www.nsc.edu.

Even when campuses are closed, you are still responsible for completing all assigned work. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor so you do not miss important assignments and due dates, which may change due to the campus closure.

Class Cancellation Policy

Our instructors post messages about cancelling classes in the D2L/NSOnline course shells and/or on the classroom door on campus. These messages can be found in the News and Content section or the Email tab in the online shell. Please check these to be sure that you take advantage of opportunities for learning and points toward your grade.