



MUSI 3303 - Music Technology

Fall 2025 Syllabus, Section 101, CRN 16950

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:
MW 1:00 - 2:30
TR 9:00 - 10:30
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e mail for appointment

Times and Location

MWF 8:30am-9:25am in Fine/Performing Arts Center 227

Course Description

Music Technology explores the use of software for music notation, scoring, manipulation and arranging. In addition, students will demonstrate competent skills in composing, basic orchestration, melodic and harmonic development, applications of live recording combined with loops, and creating/producing podcasts using digital audio workstation software. Prerequisites: Completion of MUSI 1211 and MUSI 1212 with a grade of "C" or better.

Fine&Performing Arts Department, College of Arts & Sciences

Additional Course Information

You will need a pair of headphones or earpods and a notebook for the class.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate competent skillsets using music notation software basic for arranging and composing music.
2. Demonstrate competent skillsets using music creation software for composing music and producing music and podcasts.
3. Compile a comprehensive notebook covering all topics demonstrated and discussed in class, including references, online resources, and tutorial demonstrations presented in class.
4. Demonstrate your ability to complete lesson plans using this software in the classroom, for teaching purposes, not within a lab setting.

Important Dates

Visit the Academic Calendar (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/academiccalendar/>) page to view the term's important dates.

Other Course Materials

There is no textbook for this class. All resources will be available online via BlackBoard.



Grading Criteria

GRADE	PERCENTAGE
A	91-100
B	80-90.9
C	70-79.9
D	60-69.9
F	Below 60

Open Boilerplate

Assigned Projects	70
Midterm Exam	10
Final Project	20

Course Outline for Assignments and Exams

Day	Date	Agenda/Topic	Reading(s)	Due
Mon	8/25	Tools of the Trade	Bring earbuds or headphones to class. Have a notebook either spiral, binder or iPad for every class Be sure you have your MS One Drive active and ready to use. This is where you will save your assignments until completed, then you will upload in BB.	
Wed	8/27	Intro to GarageBand: Setup and Templates	Project 1: Software instruments: Notes and demonstrations for this assignment done in class.	9/1/25
Fri	8/29	Dorico Day 1 Project 2	Project 2: First notation file based on melody assigned in class. Notes and interactive lesson in class.	9/5/25
Mon	9/1	Project 3: Adding tracks - intro to arranging Audio tracks	Project 3: First GB project using assigned track and adding new tracks you compose Learning how to change tempo and key	9/3/25
Wed	9/3	Project 4: Adding drum tracks Adding software tracks, looping and expanding regions	Using Project 3 - add drum tracks as discussed in class	9/8/25
Fri	9/5	Dorico Day 2 Project 5	Using the keyboard entry, expand the melody as directed in class, in Treble clef.	9/12/25
Mon	9/8	Quantization, Velocity and Regions Project 6	Lesson will focus on the use of Quantization, velocity settings and more details on regions within GarageBand. Wednesday's class will be sample playings of your project in progress.	9/15/25
Wed	9/10	Progress Playings of Project 6	Everyone will play their work so far for Project 6. Be prepared to discuss your planning and how you want to see the finished project.	
Fri	9/12	Dorico Day 3: Project 7	Using the chord tool, add harmony in the lower staff with 1/4 and 1/2 notes only.	9/19/25
Mon	9/15	Playing and discussion of Project 6 (complete)	Play and discuss your completed Project 6 in class.	
Wed	9/17	Project 8: Starting new Project	New small project with keys, bass and drummer tracks	9/22/25



Fri	9/19	Dorico Day 4: Project 9	See details for assignment in BB for Project 9 Using the example on BB, titled DD 9, input your music using real-time.	9/26/25
Mon	9/22	Project 10: Basic Arranging	Arranging/Definitions and the application to your project	9/29/25
Wed	9/24	Music Production 101	Lessons will involve adding another 16 measures to Project - and techniques in music production.	
Fri	9/26	Dorico Day 5: Project 11	Go back to your last Dorico project, add articulations and slurs in sensible locations that add more expression and detail to your music.	10/3/25
Mon	9/29	Project 12: Loops	You will be building a new project using the extensive Loop Library. Active demonstration lesson in class.	10/6/25
Wed	10/1	Progress Playing with comments	Play what you have started with Project 11 in class, with comments from the group (and me).	
Fri	10/3	Dorico Day 6:	Inputting rests, tuplets, and grace notes	
Mon	10/6	Project 13: Developing and expanding from Loops	Take your existing project, add 2 software tracks and one audio track. The software tracks can be any instrument, audio track can be voice, guitar or instrument recorded into GB.	10/13/25
Wed	10/8	Incorporating advanced editing tools	A detailed examination (and trials) of 7 editing techniques and tools in GB.	
Fri	10/10	Dorico Day 7: Project 14	Brass Trio	10/17/25
Mon	10/13	Project 15: Starting a project from a melody with loops	Using the same procedures from the last project, start a new project with one green track. Remaining instructions in active class demo.	10/20/25
Wed	10/15	Using Templates	Lab instructions for creating a new project using preset templates in GB. This is an in class lesson only, no assignment due.	
Fri	10/17	Dorico Day 8: Project 16	Add ties to your music with the lesson from today's class and additional requirements in BB	10/24/25
Mon	10/20	Project 17: Creating a Song using Templates	Based on your notes and work in class last Wednesday, you will create a new project in 3 templates of your choice. You will choose which of the three you want to use, and over the next 3 weeks, complete an original song for each of the 3 projects, no recycled music or loops can be used. Project 17 will be your first choice.	10/27/25
Wed	10/22	Project 17 progress playing	Play what you have completed in your project so far, and explain your approach of composing/arranging.	
Fri	10/24	Dorico Day 9: Project 18	Selections and Navigating, Moving notes	10/31/25
Mon	10/27	Project 19: Template #2	This is the second of the three "template songs." The material you use needs to be new, not recycled from the last project.	11/3/25
Wed	10/29	Building a project from harmony Project 19	This will be a future project, but this lesson is in class only as an active demonstration.	



Fri	10/31	Dorico Day 10: Project 20	copying music, locked & forced durations, input a different voice	11/7/25
Mon	11/3	Project 21 & Recording Tips	Complete a new project with the final choice of your 3 templates.	
Wed	11/5	Progress Playing of Project 21	Play what you have completed in your project so far, and explain your approach of composing/arranging.	
Fri	11/7	Dorico Day 11: Project 22	Engrave Mode BASIC overview and applied to your project	11/14/25
Mon	11/10	Project 23: Creating a podcast	Create a 5 minute max. podcast, based on any subject you have a high level of interest in. This doesn't need to be music related, but needs to be appropriate for Middle=High School level students.	11/17/25
Wed	11/12	Mastering in GB	Mastering is the final process of recording before production and release of the music, podcast, etc. This process can be highly complex and in the professional ranks, involves the producer and recording engineer on the record. In class exploration of a variety of tools and proper techniques to mastering in GB	
Fri	11/14	Dorico Day 12	Engrave Mode BASIC overview	
Mon	11/17	Project 24: Podcasting continued	You are to compose (using all GB tools) Intro and Outro music, a theme if you will. We will also learn hands-on the Ducking feature in GB as well as completing GB Tips and Tricks	11/24/25
Wed	11/19	Project 25: Adding Markers and media to your podcast. This is your FINAL project.	Review the Tutorial 8 on BB following all steps.	12/1/25
Fri	11/21	Progress on project	Work day and press check on your project.	
Mon	11/24	Edits in Podcast	Work day on your final project	
Wed	11/26	No class: Thanksgiving		
Fri	11/28	No Class		
Mon	12/1	Last class: Project playing	Final workday in preparation for Final Exam	
Wed	12/3	No Class		
Fri	12/5	No Class		
Mon	12/8	Final Exam 8:30-10:30		
Wed	12/10	No Class		

University/College Policies

Please see the University Policies below.

COVID-19 Related Policies

If you have tested positive for COVID-19, please refer to the Student Handbook, Appendix A (Attendance Rule) for instructions.

Required Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class in person (or virtually, if the class is online) and to complete all assignments. If you cannot attend class, it is your responsibility to communicate absences with your professors. The faculty member will decide if your excuse is valid and thus may provide lecture materials of the class. According to University policy, acceptable reasons for an absence, which cannot affect a student's grade, include:

- Participation in an authorized University activity.
- Death or major illness in a student's immediate family.
- Illness of a dependent family member.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school which cannot be rescheduled.

Students are responsible for providing satisfactory evidence to faculty members within seven calendar days of their absence and return to class. They must substantiate the reason for the absence. If the absence is excused, faculty members must either provide students with the opportunity to make up the exam or other work missed, or provide a satisfactory alternative to complete the exam or other work missed within 30 calendar days from the date of absence. Students who miss class due to a University-sponsored activity are responsible for identifying their absences to their instructors with as much advance notice as possible.

Classroom Behavior (applies to online or Face-to-Face Classes)

TAMU encourages classroom discussion and academic debate as an essential intellectual activity. It is essential that students learn to express and defend their beliefs, but it is also essential that they learn to listen and respond respectfully to others whose beliefs they may not share. The University will always tolerate different, unorthodox, and unpopular points of view, but it will not tolerate condescending or insulting remarks. When students verbally abuse or ridicule and intimidate others whose views they do not agree with, they subvert the free exchange of ideas that should characterize a university classroom. If their actions are deemed by the professor to be disruptive, they will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action (please refer to Student Handbook Article 4).

TAMU Honor Code: Plagiarism and Cheating

As a TAMU student, you are bound by the TAMU Honor Code to conduct yourself ethically in all your activities as a TAMU student and to report violations of the Honor Code. Please read carefully the Student Handbook Article 7 and Article 10 available at <https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamtu.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml>).

We are committed to strict enforcement of the Honor Code. Violations of the Honor Code tend to involve claiming work that is not one's own, most commonly plagiarism in written assignments and any form of cheating on exams and other types of assignments.

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work as your own. It occurs when you:

1. Borrow someone else's facts, ideas, or opinions and put them entirely in your own words. You must acknowledge that these thoughts are not your own by immediately citing the source in your paper. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
2. Borrow someone else's words (short phrases, clauses, or sentences), you must enclose the copied words in quotation marks as well as citing the source. Failure to do this is plagiarism.
3. Present someone else's paper or exam (stolen, borrowed, or bought) as your own. You have committed a clearly intentional form of intellectual theft and have put your academic future in jeopardy. This is the worst form of plagiarism.

Here is another explanation from the 2020, seventh edition of the Manual of The American Psychological Association (APA):

"Plagiarism is the act of presenting the words, idea, or images of another as your own; it denies authors or creators of content the credit they are due. Whether deliberate or unintentional, plagiarism violates ethical standards in scholarship" (p. 254). This same principle applies to the illicit use of AI.

Plagiarism: Researchers do not claim the words and ideas of another as their own; they give credit where credit is due. Quotations marks should be used to indicate the exact words of another. Each time you paraphrase another author (i.e., summarize a passage or rearrange the order of a sentence and change some of the words), you need to credit the source in the text. The key element of this principle is that authors do not present the work of another as if it were their own words. This can extend to ideas as well as written words. If authors model a study after one done by someone else, the originating author should be given credit. If the rationale for a study was suggested in the discussion section of someone else's article, the person should be given credit. Given the free exchange of ideas, which is very important for the health of intellectual discourse, authors may not know where an idea for a study originated. If authors do know, however, they should acknowledge the source; this includes personal communications (p. 11). For guidance on proper documentation, consult the Academic Success Center or a recommended guide to documentation and research such as the Manual of the APA or the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. If you still have doubts concerning proper documentation, seek advice from your instructor prior to submitting a final draft.

TAMU has penalties for plagiarism and cheating.

- **Penalties for Plagiarism:** Should a faculty member discover that a student has committed plagiarism, the student should receive a grade of 'F' in that course and the matter will be referred to the Honor Council for possible disciplinary action. The faculty member, however, may elect to



give freshmen and sophomore students a “zero” for the assignment and to allow them to revise the assignment up to a grade of “F” (50%) if they believe that the student plagiarized out of ignorance or carelessness and not out of an attempt to deceive in order to earn an unmerited grade; the instructor must still report the offense to the Honor Council. This option should not be available to juniors, seniors, or graduate students, who cannot reasonably claim ignorance of documentation rules as an excuse. For repeat offenders in undergraduate courses or for an offender in any graduate course, the penalty for plagiarism is likely to include suspension or expulsion from the university.

- **Caution:** Be very careful what you upload to Turnitin or send to your professor for evaluation. Whatever you upload for evaluation will be considered your final, approved draft. If it is plagiarized, you will be held responsible. The excuse that “it was only a draft” will not be accepted.
- **Caution:** Also, do not share your electronic files with others. If you do, you are responsible for the possible consequences. If another student takes your file of a paper and changes the name to his or her name and submits it and you also submit the paper, we will hold both of you responsible for plagiarism. It is impossible for us to know with certainty who wrote the paper and who stole it. And, of course, we cannot know if there was collusion between you and the other student in the matter.
- **Penalties for Cheating:** Should a faculty member discover a student cheating on an exam or quiz or other class project, the student should receive a “zero” for the assignment and not be allowed to make the assignment up. The incident should be reported to the chair of the department and to the Honor Council. If the cheating is extensive, however, or if the assignment constitutes a major grade for the course (e.g., a final exam), or if the student has cheated in the past, the student should receive an “F” in the course, and the matter should be referred to the Honor Council. Additional penalties, including suspension or expulsion from the university may be imposed. Under no circumstances should a student who deserves an “F” in the course be allowed to withdraw from the course with a “W.”
- **Caution:** Chat groups that start off as “study groups” can easily devolve into “cheating groups.” Be very careful not to join or remain any chat group if it begins to discuss specific information about exams or assignments that are meant to require individual work. If you are a member of such a group and it begins to cheat, you will be held responsible along with all the other members of the group. The TAMIU Honor Code requires that you report any such instances of cheating.
- **Student Right of Appeal:** Faculty will notify students immediately via the student’s TAMIU e-mail account that they have submitted plagiarized work. Students have the right to appeal a faculty member’s charge of academic dishonesty by notifying the TAMIU Honor Council of their intent to appeal as long as the notification of appeal comes within 10 business days of the faculty member’s e-mail message to the student and/or the Office of Student Conduct and Community Engagement. The Student Handbook provides more details.

Use of Work in Two or More Courses

You may not submit work completed in one course for a grade in a second course unless you receive explicit permission to do so by the instructor of the second course. In general, you should get credit for a work product only once.

AI Policies

Your instructor will provide you with their personal policy on the use of AI in the classroom setting and associated coursework.

TAMIU E-Mail and SafeZone

Personal Announcements sent to students through TAMIU E-mail (tamiu.edu or dusty email) are the official means of communicating course and university business with students and faculty –not the U.S. Mail and no other e-mail addresses. Students and faculty must check their TAMIU e-mail accounts regularly, if not daily. Not having seen an important TAMIU e-mail or message from a faculty member, chair, or dean is not accepted as an excuse for failure to take important action.

Students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to download the SafeZone app, which is a free mobile app for all University faculty, staff, and students. SafeZone allows you to: report safety concerns (24/7), get connected with mental health professionals, activate location sharing with authorities, and anonymously report incidents. Go to <https://www.tamiu.edu/adminis/police/safezone/index.shtml> for more information.

Copyright Restrictions

The Copyright Act of 1976 grants to copyright owners the exclusive right to reproduce their works and distribute copies of their work. Works that receive copyright protection include published works such as a textbook. Copying a textbook without permission from the owner of the copyright may constitute copyright infringement. Civil and criminal penalties may be assessed for copyright infringement. Civil penalties include damages up to \$100,000; criminal penalties include a fine up to \$250,000 and imprisonment. Copyright laws do not allow students and professors to make photocopies of copyrighted materials, but you may copy a limited portion of a work, such as article from a journal or a chapter from a book for your own personal academic use or, in the case of a professor, for personal, limited classroom use. In general, the extent of your copying should not suggest that the purpose or the effect of your copying is to avoid paying for the materials. And, of course, you may not sell these copies for a profit. Thus, students who copy textbooks to avoid buying them or professors who provide photocopies of textbooks to enable students to save money are violating the law.

Students with Disabilities

Texas A&M International University seeks to provide reasonable accommodations for all qualified persons with disabilities. This University will adhere to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations as required to afford equal education opportunity. It is the student’s responsibility to register with the Office of Student Counseling and Disability Services located in Student Center 126. This office will contact the faculty member to recommend specific, reasonable accommodations. Faculty are prohibited from

making accommodations based solely on communications from students. They may make accommodations only when provided documentation by the Student Counseling and Disability Services office.

Student Attendance and Leave of Absence (LOA) Policy

As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule (Section 3.07) and the Student LOA Rule (Section 3.08), which includes the "Leave of Absence Request" form. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (URL: <http://www.tamiau.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml> (<http://www.tamiau.edu/studentaffairs/StudentHandbook1.shtml/>)).

Pregnant and Parenting Students

Under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, harassment based on sex, including harassment because of pregnancy or related conditions, is prohibited. A pregnant/parenting student must be granted an absence for as long as the student's physician deems the absence medically necessary. It is a violation of Title IX to ask for documentation relative to the pregnant/parenting student's status beyond what would be required for other medical conditions. If a student would like to file a complaint for discrimination due to his or her pregnant/parenting status, please contact the TAMIU Title IX Coordinator (Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, KLM 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857) and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office, U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600). You can also report it on TAMIU's anonymous electronic reporting site: <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit/>).

TAMIU advises a pregnant/parenting student to notify their professor once the student is aware that accommodations for such will be necessary. It is recommended that the student and professor develop a reasonable plan for the student's completion of missed coursework or assignments. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (Lorissa M. Cortez, lorissam.cortez@tamiau.edu) can assist the student and professor in working out the reasonable accommodations. For other questions or concerns regarding Title IX compliance related to pregnant/parenting students at the University, contact the Title IX Coordinator. In the event that a student will need a leave of absence for a substantial period of time, TAMIU urges the student to consider a Leave of Absence (LOA) as outlined in the TAMIU Student Handbook. As part of our efforts to assist and encourage all students towards graduation, TAMIU provides LOA's for students, including pregnant/parenting students, in accordance with the Attendance Rule and the Student LOA Rule. Both rules can be found in the TAMIU Student Handbook (<https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/scce/studenthandbook.shtml/>)).

Anti-Discrimination/Title IX

TAMIU does not discriminate or permit harassment against any individual on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, educational programs, or employment. If you would like to file a complaint relative to Title IX or any civil rights violation, please contact the TAMIU Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity/Title IX Coordinator, Lorissa M. Cortez, 5201 University Boulevard, Killam Library 159B, Laredo, TX 78041, TitleIX@tamiau.edu, 956.326.2857, via the anonymous electronic reporting website, ReportIt, at <https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit> (<https://www.tamiau.edu/reportit/>), and/or the Office of Civil Rights (Dallas Office), U.S. Department of Education, 1999 Bryan Street, Suite 1620, Dallas, TX 75201-6810, 214.661.9600.

Incompletes

Students who are unable to complete a course should withdraw from the course before the final date for withdrawal and receive a "W." To qualify for an "incomplete" and thus have the opportunity to complete the course at a later date, a student must meet the following criteria:

1. The student must have completed 90% of the course work assigned before the final date for withdrawing from a course with a "W", and the student must be passing the course;
2. The student cannot complete the course because an accident, an illness, or a traumatic personal or family event occurred after the final date for withdrawal from a course;
3. The student must sign an "Incomplete Grade Contract" and secure signatures of approval from the professor and the college dean.
4. The student must agree to complete the missing course work before the end of the next long semester; failure to meet this deadline will cause the "I" to automatically be converted to an "F"; extensions to this deadline may be granted by the dean of the college. This is the general policy regarding the circumstances under which an "incomplete" may be granted, but under exceptional circumstances, a student may receive an incomplete who does not meet all of the criteria above if the faculty member, department chair, and dean recommend it.

WIN Contracts

The Department of Biology and Chemistry does not permit WIN contracts. For other departments within the college, WIN Contracts are offered only under exceptional circumstances and are limited to graduating seniors. Only courses offered by full-time TAMIU faculty or TAMIU instructors are eligible to be contracted for the WIN requirement. However, a WIN contract for a course taught by an adjunct may be approved, with special permission from the department chair and dean. Students must seek approval before beginning any work for the WIN Contract. No student will contract more than one course per semester. Summer WIN Contracts must continue through both summer sessions.



Student Responsibility for Dropping a Course

It is the responsibility of the student to drop the course before the final date for withdrawal from a course. Faculty members, in fact, may not drop a student from a course without getting the approval of their department chair and dean.

Independent Study Course

Independent Study (IS) courses are offered only under exceptional circumstances. Required courses intended to build academic skills may not be taken as IS (e.g., clinical supervision and internships). No student will take more than one IS course per semester. Moreover, IS courses are limited to seniors and graduate students. Summer IS course must continue through both summer sessions.

Grade Changes & Appeals

Faculty are authorized to change final grades only when they have committed a computational error or an error in recording a grade, and they must receive the approval of their department chairs and the dean to change the grade. As part of that approval, they must attach a detailed explanation of the reason for the mistake. Only in rare cases would another reason be entertained as legitimate for a grade change. A student who is unhappy with his or her grade on an assignment must discuss the situation with the faculty member teaching the course. If students believe that they have been graded unfairly, they have the right to appeal the grade using a grade appeal process in the Student Handbook and in the Faculty Handbook.

Final Examination

All courses in all colleges must include a comprehensive exam or performance and be given on the date and time specified by the Academic Calendar and the Final Exam schedule published by the Registrar's Office. In the College of Arts & Sciences all final exams must contain a written component. The written component should comprise at least 20% of the final exam grade. Exceptions to this policy must receive the approval of the department chair and the dean at the beginning of the semester.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it. The Telus app is available to download directly from TELUS (tamiu.edu) (<https://www.tamiu.edu/counseling/telus/>) or from the Apple App Store and Google Play.