FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

# NEW COURSE PROPOSAL
# Undergraduate Programs

**Department** Music

**College** Arts and Letters

*(To obtain a course number, contact **erudolph@fau.edu**)*

UUPC Approval 10-12-2026
UFS Approval _____
SCNS Submittal _____
Confirmed _____
Banner Posted _____
Catalog _____

**Prefix** MUS

**Number** 2362

*(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)*

**Lab Code**

**Type of Course**: Lecture

**Course Title**: Music Technology Fundamentals

**Credits** *(See Definition of a Credit Hour)*: 3

**Grading** *(Select One Option)*: **Regular** / Sat/UnSat

**Effective Date** *(TERM & YEAR)*: Sp 2027

**Course Description** *(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)*
A foundational course covering essential skills and tools needed for professional standards in music production. Students will learn the basics of audio recording, editing and mixing, music sequencing, MIDI programming, and score and part preparation within a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

**Prerequisites, with minimum grade***

**Corequisites**

**Registration Controls** *(Major, College, Level)*
Music Major

***Default minimum passing grade is D-.** **Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course**

**WAC/Gordon Rule Course**

Yes / **No**

WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See WAC Guidelines.

**Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement** *(Select One Option)*

None

General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See Intellectual Foundations Guidelines.

**Minimum qualifications to teach course**

Master's in a music degree with coursework in Voice (MA, MM with concentration or major in Voice)

**Faculty Contact/Email/Phone**

S. Rossow/ Srossow@fau.edu/ 74230

**List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course**

none

| ***Approved by*** | ***Date*** |
|---|---|
| Department Chair | August 19, 2025 |
| College Curriculum Chair | 9/29/2026 |
| College Dean | 10/01/2026 |
| UUPC Chair Korey Sorge | 10-12-2026 |
| Undergraduate Studies Dean Dan Meeroff | 10-12-2026 |
| UFS President | |
| Provost | |

Email this form and syllabus to mjenning@fau.edu seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY**

# Music Technology Fundamentals

**Date:** M,W, F 11-11:50
**MUS 2362**
Hybrid course
**Building:** Arts and Letters Boca **Room:** 348
**3 Credit(s)**
**Spring 2027 - 1 Full Term**

## Instructor Information

Alejandro Sanchez
**Email:** asanch51@fau.edu
**Office: AL-188**
**Office Hours: T-TR 10 to 11, F: 1-3**

**Phone: 561-706-4805**

## Course Description

A foundational course covering essential skills and tools needed for professional standards in music production. Students will learn the basics of audio recording, editing and mixing, music sequencing, MIDI programming, and score and part preparation within a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

## Instructional Method

**- Mixed Mode**

## Required Texts/Materials

- FAU Linked in Learning account. Log in with your FAU credentials here: https://www.fau.edu/linkedin-learning/
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## Course Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

This course covers:

**Audio Recording Basics:**

- Operate basic recording equipment (microphones, interfaces, software)
- Understand microphone types and their uses
- Apply basic recording techniques (mic placement, gain staging, and basic audio mixing)
- Identify and troubleshoot common recording issues
- Understand fundamental audio concepts (gain, levels, signal flow, signal processing)

**Music Notation Software:**

- Navigate and utilize Dorico for score and part diagramming
- Input musical notation accurately (notes, rhythms, symbols) using various forms of entry
- Create and edit musical scores
- Format scores for readability and printing
- Import/Export scores in different formats (PDF, MIDI, XML)

**Computer Music Sequencing:**

- Operate a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) for sequencing. In this course, we will cover Logic Pro
- Program rhythms and melodies within a sequencer
- Understand MIDI and audio concepts in sequencing
- Arrange musical ideas within a sequencer
- Export sequenced music in audio formats

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

1. **Demonstrate a foundational understanding of audio recording principles and methodologies.** This includes proficiency in utilizing basic recording equipment, applying fundamental microphone techniques, and executing essential audio capture procedures.

2. **Acquire operational competence in music notation software applications.** Students will be able to effectively navigate the software interface, input musical notation accurately, create and manipulate musical scores, and generate professional-quality printed or digital outputs.
3. **Develop practical skills in computer music sequencing techniques.** This encompasses the ability to operate a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) environment, program musical sequences utilizing virtual instruments, and arrange musical ideas into cohesive compositions.
4. **Comprehend fundamental concepts in digital audio signal flow and processing.** Students will gain a working knowledge of audio signal paths within digital music production systems and an introductory understanding of common audio processing techniques.
5. **Apply learned skills to the creation of basic musical projects.** Students will be expected to integrate their acquired knowledge in audio recording, music notation, and computer sequencing to produce rudimentary musical works that demonstrate competency in the course material.
6. **Articulate and employ standard music terminology relevant to music technology.** Students will develop a vocabulary and understanding of terminology pertinent to audio engineering, music notation, and digital music production

## Faculty Rights and Responsibilities

Florida Atlantic University respects the rights of instructors to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede their exercise. To ensure these rights, faculty members have the prerogative to:

• Establish and implement academic standards.

• Establish and enforce reasonable behavior standards in each class.

• Recommend disciplinary action for students whose behavior may be judged as disruptive under the Student Code of Conduct University Regulation 4.007.

## Disability Policy

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at www.fau.edu/sas/.

## Course Evaluation Method

- Projects: 60%
- Quizzes: 30%
- Attendance: 10%

**Note: A grade of C or higher is needed in this course for the course to be accepted towards the major degree requirement.**

## Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001.
All projects and assignments need to be of your unique authorship. Using a portion of someone else's project is considered plagiarism and will be dealt with according to the process set forth by FAU's academic integrity policy

## Attendance Policy Statement

Students are expected to attend all their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations, or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.
Attendance is worth 30% of the grade. A student is responsible for work missed on days student is absence. If a student is absent on days projects are played, student will receive a 20 point deduction unless student contacts instructor PRIOR to class documenting the reason(s) why student is absent.

## Religious Accommodation Policy Statement

In accordance with the rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs

regarding admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments. University Regulation 2.007, Religious Observances, sets forth this policy for FAU and may be accessed on the FAU website at www.fau.edu/regulations.

Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the executive director of The Office of Civil Rights and Title IX. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University's established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.

## Time Commitment Per Credit Hour

For traditionally delivered courses, not less than one (1) hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction each week for fifteen (15) weeks per Fall or Spring semester, and a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work for each credit hour. Equivalent time and effort are required for Summer Semesters, which usually have a shortened timeframe. Fully Online courses, hybrid, shortened, intensive format courses, and other non-traditional modes of delivery will demonstrate equivalent time and effort.

## Course Grading Scale

| Letter Grade | Letter Grade |
|---|---|
| A | 94 - 100% |
| A- | 90 - 93% |
| B+ | 87 - 89% |
| B | 83 - 86% |
| B- | 80 - 82% |
| C+ | 77 - 79% |
| C | 73 - 76% |
| C- | 70 - 72% |
| D+ | 67 - 69% |
| D | 63 - 66% |
| D- | 60 - 62% |
| F | Below 60 |

## Grade Appeal Process

You may request a review of the final course grade when you believe that one of the following conditions apply:

- There was a computational or recording error in the grading.

- The grading process used non-academic criteria.

- There was a gross violation of the instructor's own grading system.

University Regulation 4.002 of the University Regulations contains information on the grade appeals process

## Policy on Make-up Tests, Late work, and Incompletes

Projects are due when they are due and are played in class. Late projects will receive a 20 point deduction per class period late. Projects will not be accepted after one week unless there are documented reasons that are provided to instructor

## Special Course Requirements

All projects for this course are done either in Logic Pro or Ableton Live as assigned. Students will be given class time to work on projects. However, not all projects can be completed during class time. Students are required to work on projects outside of class time.

## Policy on the Recording of Lectures

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

## Artificial Intelligence Preamble

FAU recognizes the value of generative AI in facilitating learning. However, output generated by artificial intelligence (AI), such as written words, computations, code, artwork, images, music, etc., for example, is drawn from previously published materials and is not your own original work.

FAU students are not permitted to use AI for any course work unless explicitly allowed to do so by the instructor of the class for a specific assignment. **[Policy 12.16 Artificial Intelligence]**

Class policies related to AI use are decided by the individual faculty. Some faculty may permit the use of AI in some assignments but not others, and some faculty may prohibit the use of AI in their course entirely. In the case that an instructor permits the use of AI for some assignments, the assignment instructions will indicate when and how the use of AI is permitted in that specific assignment. It is the student's responsibility to comply with the instructor's expectations for each assignment in each

course. When AI is authorized, the student is also responsible and accountable for the content of the work. AI may generate inaccurate, false, or exaggerated information. Users should approach any generated content with skepticism and review any information generated by AI before using generated content as-is.

If you are unclear about whether or not the use of AI is permitted, ask your instructor before starting the assignment.

Failure to comply with the requirements related to the use of AI may constitute a violation of the **Florida Atlantic Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.001.**

Proper Citation: If the use of AI is permitted for a specific assignment, then use of the AI tool must be properly documented and cited. For more information on how to properly cite the use of AI tools, visit **https://fau.edu/ai/citation**

## AI Language Specific To This Course

Only AI tools included in Logic Pro are allowed for Logic Pro based assignments. The only exception is the one assignment in the course that allows for the integration of other AI tools within the project.

## Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (**CAPS**) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to http://www.fau.edu/counseling/

## Student Support Services and Online Resources

- Center for Learning and Student Success (CLASS)
- Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)
- FAU Libraries
- Math Learning Center
- Office of Information Technology Helpdesk
- Center for Global Engagement
- Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (OURI)
- Science Learning Center
- Speaking Center
- Student Accessibility Services
- Student Athlete Success Center (SASC)
- Testing and Certification

- Test Preparation
- University Academic Advising Services
- University Center for Excellence in Writing (UCEW)
- Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC)

## Course Topical Outline

The course is structured into three online modules. Students need to view all videos in the module, successfully pass the quizzes, and complete the assignments within each module.
During the first week of classes, students will complete the Introductory module and skills assessment test. Based on the responses to this skills assessment test, students will be placed in one of three levels—beginner, intermediate, and advanced. The assignments for all skill levels will be the same, but more advanced concepts will be introduced at the higher levels, and the expected outcome of these assignments should match the instructional depth required for each. To effectively utilize the limited resources we have (one studio for all students, limited computers in the lab), the module schedule will rotate differently based on the level as outlined below:

| BEGINNER LEVEL - MEETS EVERY MONDAY | |
|---|---|
| Weeks 2,3,4 and 5 | Music Notation |
| Weeks 6,7,8,9 | Computer Music Sequencing |
| Weeks 10,11,12,13 | Audio Recording Basics |
| Week 14 | Three minute student video presentations |

| INTERMEDIATE LEVEL - MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY | |
|---|---|
| Weeks 2,3,4 and 5 | Audio Recording Basics |
| Weeks 6,7,8,9 | Music Notation |
| Weeks 10,11,12,13 | Computer Music Sequencing |
| Week 14 | Three minute student video presentations |

| ADVANCED LEVEL - MEETS EVERY FRIDAY | |
|---|---|
| Weeks 2,3,4 and 5 | Computer Music Sequencing |
| Weeks 6,7,8,9 | Audio Recording Basics |
| Weeks 10,11,12,13 | Music Notation |
| Week 14 | Three minute student video presentations |

AUDIO RECORDING BASICS MODULE

 **Week 1:** *Topics:* Nature of sound, acoustics, analog vs. digital, signal flow, basic equipment overview, terminology. *Activities:* Lectures, demonstrations of sound principles, listening exercises, introduce basic equipment (even if just visually). *Outcome:* Basic audio vocabulary, understanding of sound and signal flow.
 **Week 2:** *Topics:* Microphone types, microphone polar patterns, cables, audio interfaces, recorders/DAWs, monitoring. *Activities:* Hands-on with microphones and equipment. Demonstrations of polar patterns. Connect and set up basic recording chains. *Outcome:* Equipment identification and setup skills, microphone selection understanding.
 **Week 3:** *Topics:* Mic placement techniques (close, distant, stereo), recording levels (gain staging), basic recording in DAW, monitoring during recording, noise reduction. *Activities:* Recording exercises (voice, acoustic instrument – simple sources). Experiment with mic placement. Practice gain staging and monitoring. *Outcome:* Basic recording workflow, mic placement skills, gain staging practice.
 **Week 4:** *Topics:* Introduction to DAWs, digital audio concepts (bit depth, sample rate – explained simply), basic mixing concepts (levels, panning), introduction to basic effects (EQ/compression *very* briefly). *Activities:* DAW navigation and basic workflow within the DAW (importing, recording, playback). Simple mixing exercises (level balance). Brief demo of EQ/compression. *Outcome:* DAW familiarity, basic digital audio understanding, introduction to mixing.

COMPUTER MUSIC SEQUENCING MODULE

 **Week 1: Foundations of Computer Music Sequencing and MIDI:** Introduce MIDI as the language of sequencing, DAWs as the environment, and basic interface navigation. Focus on MIDI messages and controller types.
 **Week 2: Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) and Virtual Instruments:** Deep dive into DAW functionalities for sequencing. Explore virtual instruments and how to load, control, and record them. Focus on instrument types and sound design basics.
 **Week 3: Sequencing Techniques and Rhythmic Concepts:** Introduce different sequencing methods (step sequencing, real-time recording). Cover rhythmic concepts essential for sequencing (quantization, groove, timing).
 **Week 4: Arrangement and Basic Composition in a DAW:** Focus on arranging sequenced material into musical structures. Introduce basic compositional concepts within the DAW environment (loops, sections, variations). Introduce exporting and file formats.

MUSIC NOTATION MODULE

 **Week 1: Dorico Pro Interface and Basic Notation:** Introduce the Dorico Pro interface, project setup, basic note entry methods (keyboard, mouse, MIDI), and fundamental notation elements (clefs, time signatures, key signatures, notes, rests).
 **Week 2: Advanced Note Input and Editing:** Explore more efficient note input techniques (step-time, real-time recording from MIDI), advanced editing tools (selection, manipulation of notation elements), and rhythmic notation (tuplets, grace notes). Introduce basic articulations and dynamics.
 **Week 3: Layout and Score Formatting:** Focus on score layout and page formatting features in Dorico Pro. Cover page templates, system and frame breaks, staff sizes, text

and lyrics input, and basic score organization (parts, flows). Introduce chord symbols and basic score analysis tools.
 **Week 4: Advanced Notation and Output:** Delve into advanced notation elements like slurs, ties, ornaments, special clefs, and percussion notation. Explore different output options (printing, PDF, graphics, MusicXML, MIDI export) and best practices for score preparation and delivery. Introduce more advanced layout options and engraving settings. Include a final project or exercise.
A week in a module consists of four videos, a quiz after each video that must be successfully passed before moving on, and a weekly assignment that needs to be completed within the software indicated and within the parameters indicated as well. The assignments for all modules are listed below. All assignments in a module must be completed within the time allotted for each module, as outlined above.

| Module | Assignment |
|---|---|
| Audio | Record three 15-second audio recordings of you performing on your instrument with your cellphone and vary the distances from close, to midfield to distant. Then answer the questions in the provide summary to qualify each recording |
| Audio | In Studio D, record the provided script, with you on all three roles as a voice actor. Add appropriate sound effects and musical underscore if desire. Submit an audio recording in 24 bit, 48 kHz |
| Audio | Record one minute of an acoustic instrument in Studio D and employ three different microphone techniques. Submit all three recordings and explain which one you liked the most and why |
| Audio | Mix the provided song utilizing the techniques explained in the course |
| Sequencing | Sequence the first 32 bars of "Billy Jean" using the provided score as your guide |
| Sequencing | Follow the provided instructions to sequence the provided song and provide a song map as per the video |
| Sequencing | Compose an original musical score and FX to the one minute video provided using virtual instruments and sampled instruments as well |
| Sequencing | Do a cover version of "Stand by Me" using virtual instruments and at least one live instrument |
| Notation | Input the data and create a lead sheet of the provided song |
| Notation | Format the score and parts of the provided Dorico project to match the provided PDF |
| Notation | Input all the note data for the 16 bars of the provided musical score. Diagram and extract transposed score and parts |
| Notation | Format the provided Logic file song for XML export, import into Dorico and export score |
| Final project | Record a three-minute video where you research any topic of your interest from any of the modules, and provide context on how exploring this topic further will help enhance your own musical development. |

## Title IX Statement

In any case involving allegations of sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report the matter to the University Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Civil Rights and Title IX (OCR9). If University faculty become aware of an allegation of sexual misconduct, they are expected to report it to OCR9. If a report is made, someone from OCR9 and/or Campus Victim Services will contact you to make you aware of available resources including support services, supportive measures, and the University's grievance procedures. More information, including contact information for OCR9, is available at **https://www.fau.edu/ocr9/title-ix/**. You may also contact Victim Services at **victimservices@fau.edu** or 561-297-0500 (ask to speak to an Advocate) or schedule an appointment with a counselor at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) by calling 561-297-CAPS.