

MUSC 3230  
TECHNOLOGY IN COMPOSITION AND IMPROVISATION  
UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA—DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC

COURSE SYLLABUS

**Instructor:** Dr. Josh Byrd  
**Office:** HUM 340  
**Phone:** 678-839-6267  
**Email:** jbyrd@westga.edu

**Term:** Spring 2016  
**Class Times:** W/F 8:30-9:50  
**Location:** HUM 141  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Course Description:**

Beginning studies in combining musical elements in an artistic fashion by using the tools of music technology. Students complete composition projects and study basic improvisation techniques.

*Please note that the information contained in this syllabus may be altered  
by the instructor at any point during the semester  
in order to adapt to the pace or needs specific to the current class.*

**Class Objectives:**

This class serves as an introduction to the incorporation of technology in music performance, production, and education. Students will work with Sibelius notation software, GarageBand, and a number of other programs, using these tools to produce materials that can be incorporated into careers in composition, performance, and education. Students will also study basic recording and improvisation techniques as well as using digital audio/image files in conjunction with emails, papers, and presentations.

1. Learn how to integrate music technology into a career involving both teaching and performing music.
2. Edit, arrange, and adapt music using Sibelius music notation software.
3. Learn teaching and performance techniques in improvisation.
4. Develop a fundamental understanding of basic recording techniques and digital music manipulation.
5. Become familiar with digital studio editing.
6. Be able to combine virtual instruments into existing acoustic tracks (and vice-versa).
7. Learn how to efficiently distribute digital audio, video, and image files.
8. Use the Internet to obtain and manipulate a variety of publicly available audio, video, and image files.

**Required Materials:**

1. USB flash drive
2. Headphones
3. Pencil

**Attendance Policy:**

Do not miss class or arrive late to class. If you must miss a class, please email Dr. Byrd at least one day in advance.<sup>i</sup> Following two unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by five points (93 to 88, etc.) for each subsequent absence. **Please arrive early in order to make sure your computer station is set up and running correctly; late entrances will not be tolerated and may result in students being marked absent for that class day.**

**Student Expectations:**

Because this is a “hands-on” course, student attendance and participation is vital for student success.<sup>ii</sup> Although some class time will be provided for assignments, additional lab time will be available (and necessary) throughout the week. All assignments must be completed and turned in on time. ***Any material submitted late can only earn a “C” as its highest grade. Late assignments will not be accepted following a calendar week past its due date.*** Make up exams will only be given for excused absences.<sup>iii</sup> *Note: all “homework” assignments are due by 8:00 am on the day that they are due!*

**Evaluation:**

The following formula will be used to determine your semester grade:

Homework	15%
In-class Assignments	25%
Projects	25%
Quizzes	15%
Midterm Project	10%
Final Project	10%

**Grade Scale:**

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

**University of West Georgia Honor Code:**

Please refer to the University’s honor code regarding academic honesty and student integrity (<http://www.westga.edu/~handbook/index.php?page=honorcode>).

**Email Policy:**

*PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY EMAIL MISSING A HEADER, GREETING, EMAIL BODY, AND/OR SIGNATURE WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.* This does NOT include assignment submissions!

**Disability Services:**

All students are provided with equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, temporary or permanent disability, special needs related to pregnancy, etc. If you have any special learning needs, particularly (but not limited to) needs defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, and require specific accommodations, please do not hesitate to make those known, either yourself or through the Coordinator of Disability Services. Students with documented special needs may expect accommodation in relation to classroom accessibility, modification of testing, special test administration, etc. For more information, please contact Disability Services at the University of West Georgia. Any student with a disability documented through Student Services is encouraged to contact the

professor right away so that appropriate accommodations may be arranged. In addition, certain accommodations (which will be discussed in class) are available to all students, within constraints of time and space.

### Syllabus Information:

Please visit <http://tinyurl.com/UWGSyllabusPolicies> should you wish to review the University's syllabus policies.

### Notable Dates:

- Monday, January 18—Martin Luther King Day (it doesn't affect this class but enjoy!)
- Monday, March 14-Friday, March 18—Spring Break, NO CLASS
- **FINAL EXAM:** Monday, April 25, 8:00-10:30 AM

### Tentative Calendar:

- **1/13:** Introductions, Syllabus, Survey, Incorporating Technology, Introduction to Sibelius
- **1/15:** Introduction to Sibelius (continued)
- **1/20:** Introduction to Sibelius (continued), **SIBELIUS QUIZ #1**
- **1/22:** Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
- **1/27:** Transcriptions, IMSLP, Sibelius Project Overview
- **1/29:** NO CLASS—GMEA
- **2/3:** **SIBELIUS QUIZ #2**, Sibelius Percussion
- **2/5:** Introduction to Improvisation and Jazz Arranging
- **2/10:** Improvisation/Arranging (cont.), **SIB. QUIZ #3**, Midterm Project Overview
- **2/12:** Lab Day, **SIBELIUS PROJECT DUE** at end of class period
- **2/17:** Introduction to Garage Band and Recording
- **2/19:** Garage Band and Recording (continued)
- **2/24:** Garage Band and Recording (continued), **IMPROVISATION QUIZ #1**
- **2/26:** Garage Band and Recording (continued)
- **3/2:** Recording and Editing
- **3/4:** Midterm Project Review/Discussion
- **3/9:** **IMPROVISATION QUIZ #2**
- **3/11:** Lab Day, **MIDTERM PROJECT DUE** by end of class period
- **3/23:** Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, Silent Movie Project Overview
- **3/25:** Importing Audio and Video Files, **TECHNOLOGY TEST**
- **3/30:** QuickTime and screen capturing
- **3/27:** iMovie, websites, mobile device apps
- **4/1:** NO CLASS—Wind Ensemble Tour
- **4/3:** Lab Day, **SILENT MOVIE PROJECT DUE** at end of class period
- **4/8:** "Dissertations" (PowerPoint)
- **4/10:** Technology Helpers—mp3 recorders, flip cameras, MIDI, Dropbox, iPads
- **4/15:** Creating MIDI Backup Tracks
- **4/17:** Wrap-up
- **4/20:** **FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS** (8-10:30 am)

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<sup>i</sup> Examples of excused absences may include but are not limited to—with documentation where applicable—family emergencies, illness, and Music Department trips. When in doubt if an absence will be excused... ASK!

<sup>ii</sup> Because the class is in a computer lab any email, Facebook, YouTube, Angry Birds (available on Google Chrome) or other sources of electronic entertainment are readily available. DON'T USE THEM... **DON'T DO IT!**

<sup>iii</sup> Students are responsible for contacting the instructor regarding missed work and absences (whether or not it is excused or unexcused).