



### Basic Course Information

Semester:	<b>Fall 2025</b>	Instructor Name:	<b>Dr. Matthew Busse</b>
Course Title & #:	<b>Intro to Music Technology MUS 186</b>	Email:	<b>Matthew.busse@imperial.edu</b>
CRN #:	11109	Webpage (optional):	
Classroom:	<b>313-Computer Lab</b>	Office #:	
Class Dates:	<b>2/10/2025 to 6/6/2025</b>	Office Hours:	<b>By appointment, Tuesdays-Thursdays 3:30-4:30 pm via Zoom</b>
Class Days:	<b>Lectures Online, Lab in person on Thursdays</b>	Office Phone #:	
Class Times:	6-7:50pm	Emergency Contact:	<b>Humanities Secretary, IVC</b>
Units:	2	Class Format:	Hybrid

### Course Description

Introduction to Music Technology is a course that teaches students the necessary tools and techniques to create contemporary electronic music in a variety of styles. Students will learn the history of electronic music with listening examples that highlight the important people, technology, and techniques associated with the style. Students will learn to listen critically and adapt to changes in technology and public musical taste. Students will then be responsible for creating musical compositions in a variety of styles. Work will be done with DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) primarily Logic Pro. Students will also learn the function and application of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) and MIDI instruments. This course also teaches music theory topics such as rhythm and harmony within the framework of a DAW. Other topics include sound synthesis, sampling and instruments associated with such techniques, microphones and recording techniques, and other related concepts. Finally, the course will teach basic recording techniques that are applicable to simple recording processes for both electronic and acoustic recording. Students will also gain experience in digital music notation through software such as Finale. Ultimately, students will gain a deep understanding of many aspects of contemporary electronic music, including beats, harmony, melodies, synthesis, recording, audio/MIDI editing, effects processing, sound design, form, performance, and mixing. Throughout the course, students will present concerts/performances of compositions and other projects in a variety of venues. (CSU)

### Course Prerequisite(s) and/or Corequisite(s)

None



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## Student Learning Outcomes

Upon course completion, the successful student will have acquired new skills, knowledge, and or attitudes as demonstrated by being able to:

1. Understand the history of recording, music technology and electronic music.
2. Understanding of basic music theory concepts such as rhythm, harmony and melody.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of DAWs and their characteristics, particularly Logic Pro.
4. Understand microphone characteristics and demonstrate the recording process.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of MIDI
6. Demonstrate the understanding of signal processing and effects.
7. Understand the use of digital notation and related software.
8. Demonstrate the procedures in digital audio recording, mixing and mastering.
9. Notate music through the use of software.

## Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) and its impact on music recording and technology.
2. Understand basic music theory concepts as they relate to electronic music and simple composition.
3. Identify and demonstrate MIDI; terminology, history and application in a DAW
4. Identify sound and its various properties, particularly as they relate to music, instruments and recording.
5. Identify and demonstrate working knowledge of microphones and various recording techniques.
6. Identify and demonstrate signal processing and effects in both the recording and DAW environment.
7. Record, mix and master original compositions

## Textbooks & Other Resources or Links

Due to the ever-changing nature of technology in music, no textbook will be used. Any material that will be needed will be supplied via online or hard copy handouts.

- Various supplemental handouts will be supplied based on articles from recording journal magazines.
- The IVC Recording Studio and MIDI Lab facilities will be utilized for learning the hardware and software applications.

## Course Requirements and Instructional Methods

- Students will be tested in areas of the history of electronic music and history of recording. Testing will include key composers, historical techniques and recognizing musical examples.

- Students will create various projects associated with techniques introduced. 1<sup>st</sup> project will be basic construction of short musical composition in Logic Pro utilizing a variety of software based instruments. 2<sup>nd</sup> project will consist of composition created using various instruments such as drum machine, samplers and software based synthesizers.
- Students will continue projects in Logic Pro software. Major project will consist of new composition utilizing previously learned instruments, incorporating audio recording techniques, and adding editing techniques, sound manipulation and effects. More advanced sampling and patch creation will also be included.
- Students will create simple composition in notation software, consisting of at least 3-4 parts, printed, and that can be performed by other music students on instruments.
- Students will be able to add music to either existing or newly created film/movie. Original music will be created using methods from previous projects (computer music) in combination with acoustic music (if preferred). Students will work in conjunction with other departments (theater, graphic arts, eg.).
- Final projects may be presented on public concert.

Out of Class Assignments: The Department of Education policy states that one (1) credit hour is the amount of student work that reasonably approximates not less than one hour of class time and two (2) hours of out-of-class time per week over the span of a semester. WASC has adopted a similar requirement.

### Course Grading Based on Course Objectives

Recording Projects 30%

Final Exam 20%

Final Project 30% (In the IVC Recording Studio)

Class Participation 20% (presentations & attendance)

### Course Policies

- A student who fails to attend the first meeting of a class or does not complete the first mandatory activity of an online class will be dropped by the instructor as of the first official meeting of that class. Should readmission be desired, the student's status will be the same as that of any other student who desires to add a class. It is the student's responsibility to drop or officially withdraw from the class. See [General Catalog](#) for details.
- Regular attendance in all classes is expected of all students. A student whose continuous, unexcused absences exceed the number of hours the class is scheduled to meet per week may be dropped. For online courses, students who fail to complete required activities for two consecutive weeks may be considered to have excessive absences and may be dropped.
- Absences attributed to the representation of the college at officially approved events (conferences, contests, and field trips) will be counted as 'excused' absences.

### Classroom Etiquette

- Electronic Devices: Cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class, unless otherwise directed by the instructor. •

- Food and Drink are prohibited in all classrooms. Water bottles with lids/caps are the only exception. Additional restrictions will apply in labs. Please comply as directed by the instructor. •
- Disruptive Students: Students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be sent out of the room and told to meet with the Campus Disciplinary Officer before returning to continue with coursework. Disciplinary procedures will be followed as outlined in the General Catalog. •
- Children in the classroom: Due to college rules and state laws, only students enrolled in the class may attend; children are not allowed.

### **How do I act differently if I have an on-ground class during COVID?**

#### **1. DO NOT COME TO CAMPUS OR ATTEND AN OFF-CAMPUS CLASS IF YOU FEEL SICK, HAVE A FEVER, OR HAVE A COUGH**

- Even if your symptoms are mild, stay home.
- Email your instructor to explain why you are missing class.
- If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, provides CDC guidance.
- If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you must self-quarantine for 14 days and then be without symptoms for at least 72 hours. Clearance is required prior to returning to any face-to-face interaction. It is recommended that you undergo a final COVID-19 test to confirm that you are no longer infected.
- If you are exposed through direct contact with a person known to be COVID-19 positive, then you must submit negative COVID-19 test results prior to returning to any face-to-face interaction.

#### **2. ARRIVE AT CAMPUS EARLY (at least 15 minutes early is advised).**

- All people entering the IVC campus will need to pass a screening process, which will occur at the gates as your drive onto campus. You will need to take a short questionnaire and get your temperature taken (the screening is completely touchless and will take place while you remain in your car).

#### **3. BRING A MASK TO CLASS (and always wear it).**

- Be sure that your mask covers both your nose and mouth. If your mask is cloth, then wash it each day. If your mask is disposable, then use a new one each day.

#### **4. GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR CLASSROOM.**

- The IVC campus is mostly closed so you should not visit other areas or seek any face-to-face services. Services are available to students online and can be accessed through [www.imperial.edu](http://www.imperial.edu).

#### **5. WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY (and use the provided sanitation supplies).**

- Your classroom is equipped with cleaning supplies. Use them as needed.

#### **6. BE SURE TO SOCIAL DISTANCE (stay at least 6 feet from other).**

- The number of students in a classroom at any one time is very limited so you have plenty of space to spread and ensure that you stay at least 6 feet from others.

#### **7. BRING YOUR OWN FOOD AND DRINKS.**

- There is no food service currently offered on campus

## Other Course Information

### Online Netiquette

- What is netiquette? Netiquette is internet manners, online etiquette, and digital etiquette all rolled into one word. Basically, netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.
- Students are to comply with the following rules of netiquette: (1) identify yourself, (2) include a subject line, (3) avoid sarcasm, (4) respect others' opinions and privacy, (5) acknowledge and return messages promptly, (6) copy with caution, (7) do not spam or junk mail, (8) be concise, (9) use appropriate language, (10) use appropriate emoticons (emotional icons) to help convey meaning, and (11) use appropriate intensifiers to help convey meaning [do not use ALL CAPS or multiple exclamation marks (!!!)].

### How am I expected to act in an online "classroom" (especially Zoom)?

Attending a virtual meeting can be a challenge when there are many students on one conference call. Participating in such meetings may count as class attendance, but disruptive behavior may also result in you not being admitted to future meetings. Follow the tips below for best results:

#### 1) Be RESPECTFUL

- Your written, verbal, and non-verbal communications should be respectful and focused on the learning topics of the class.

#### 2) Find a QUIET LOCATION & SILENCE YOUR PHONE (if zooming)

- People walking around and pets barking can be a distraction.

#### 3) EAT AT A DIFFERENT TIME.

- Crunching food or chugging drinks is distracting for others.
- Synchronous zoom times are set in advance so reserve meals for outside class meetings.

#### 4) ADJUST YOUR LIGHTING SO THAT OTHERS CAN SEE YOU

- It is hard to see you in dim lighting so find a location with light.
- If your back is to a bright window, you will be what is called "backlit" and not only is it hard on the eyes (glare) but you look like a silhouette.

#### 5) POSITION THE CAMERA SO THAT YOUR FACE AND EYES ARE SHOWING

- If you are using the camera, show your face; it helps others see your non-verbal cues.
- You may be at home, but meeting in pajamas or shirtless is not appropriate so dress suitably. Comb your hair, clean your teeth, fix your clothes, etc. before your meeting time to show self-respect and respect for others.

#### 6) Be READY TO LEARN AND PAY ATTENTION

- Catch up on other emails or other work later.
- If you are Zooming, silence your phone and put it away.
- If you are in a room with a TV – turn it off.

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7) USE YOUR MUTE BUTTON WHEN IN LOUD PLACES OR FOR DISTRACTIONS

- Pets barking, children crying, sneezing, coughing, etc. can happen unexpectedly. It's best if you conference in a private space, but if you can't find a quiet place, when noises arise MUTE your laptop.

8) REMEMBER TO UNMUTE WHEN SPEAKING

- Follow your instructor's directions about using the "raise hand" icon or chat function to be recognized and to speak, but make sure you have unmuted your device.
- Do not speak when someone else is speaking.

9) REMAIN FOCUSED AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING

- Especially when the camera is on YOU, we can all see your actions. Engage in the meeting. Look at the camera. Listen to instruction. Answer questions when asked.
- Do not use the Zoom meeting to meet with your peers or put on a "show" for them.

10) PAUSE YOUR VIDEO IF MOVING OR DOING SOMETHING DISTRACTING

- Emergencies happen. If you need to leave the room or get up and move about, stop your video.

**What if I need to borrow technology or access to WIFI?**

1. To request a loaner laptop, MYFI device, or other electronic device, please submit your request here: <https://imperial.edu/students/student-equity-and-achievement/>
2. If you'd like access the WIFI at the IVC campus, you can park in parking lots "I & J". Students must log into the IVC student WIFI by using their IVC email and password. The parking lots will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Guidelines for using parking WIFI:**

- Park in every other space (empty space BETWEEN vehicles)
- Must have facemask available -For best reception park near buildings
- Only park at marked student spaces
- Only owners of a valid disabled placard may use disabled parking spaces
- Only members of the same household in each vehicle
- Occupants MUST remain in vehicles -Restrooms and other on-campus services not available
- College campus safety will monitor the parking lot
- Student code of conduct and all other parking guidelines are in effect
- Please do not leave any trash behind
- No parking permit required

If you have any questions about using parking WIFI, please call Student Affairs at 760- 355-6455.

**Academic Honesty**

Academic honesty in the advancement of knowledge requires that all students and instructors respect the integrity of one another's work and recognize the important of acknowledging and safeguarding intellectual property.

There are many different forms of academic dishonesty. The following kinds of honesty violations and their definitions are not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, they are intended to serve as examples of unacceptable academic conduct.



- Plagiarism is taking and presenting as one’s own the writings or ideas of others, without citing the source. You should understand the concept of plagiarism and keep it in mind when taking exams and preparing written materials. If you do not understand how to “cite a source” correctly, you must ask for help.
- Cheating is defined as fraud, deceit, or dishonesty in an academic assignment, or using or attempting to use materials, or assisting others in using materials that are prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment in question.

Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a zero (0) on the exam or assignment, and the instructor may report the incident to the Campus Disciplinary Officer, who may place related documentation in a file. Repeated acts of cheating may result in an F in the course and/or disciplinary action. Please refer to the General Catalog for more information on academic dishonesty or other misconduct. Acts of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) plagiarism; (b) copying or attempting to copy from others during an examination or on an assignment; (c) communicating test information with another person during an examination; (d) allowing others to do an assignment or portion of an assignment; (e) using a commercial term paper service.

## IVC Student Resources

IVC wants you to be successful in all aspects of your education. For help, resources, services, and an explanation of policies, visit <http://www.imperial.edu/studentresources> or click the heart icon in Canvas.

## Anticipated Class Schedule/Calendar

Date or Week	Activity, Assignment, and/or Topic	Pages/ Due Dates/Tests
Week 1-2	Basics: History of Electronic Music, Recording History,	
Week 3-4	Sound basics, Intro to DAW, Loops (Logic Pro).	History Quiz
Week 5-6	Continue exploring DAW. MIDI and electronic music technology.	Sound and DAW Quiz Loops Project Due
Week 7-8	Continue use of recording software. Microphones and recording processes.	MIDI Project due MIDI Quiz
Week 9-10	Continue use of recording software. Read and discuss Chapter 14 (Mixing techniques)	Live recording project Due Microphone Quiz
Week 11-12	Continue use of recording software Read and discuss Chapter 15 (Signal Processing)	Signal Processing Quiz
Week 13-15	Week 13-15 Work on Final Project	Signal Processing Project Due
Week 16	Final Project Due and Final Exam	Final Project

\*\*\*Subject to change without prior notice\*\*\*