

Music 161 – Introduction to Electronic Music

Instructor: Mike Hiscocks

Office: Music Department Office “D”

Phone & Voice Mail: (310) 233-4409

FAX: (310) 233-4223 (use a cover sheet with my name on it.)

Email: hiscocm@lahc.edu

Office Hours: T 2:30 PM - 5:30 PM; W 3:30PM - 5:30 PM, Th 11:30AM - 12:30 PM or TBA

Course web site: <http://www.lahc.edu/music/home.html> Then click on “Course Websites”

TEXT: *Experiencing Music Technology* by David Brian Williams and Peter Richard Webster
ISBN 0-534-17672-0

COURSE OBJECTIVES: This is an overview class that will introduce through lecture, assigned readings, demonstrations and hands-on experience the basic principles of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) and the basic operation of electronic synthesizers and other MIDI instruments. This is a music technology class and not a keyboard class. We will not cover piano playing skills. Students will learn to:

- set up and operate simple MIDI systems involving two or more MIDI instruments,
- create original multi-timbral synthesizer patches,
- edit preset synthesizer patches to create new, original timbres,
- set up and operate software-based MIDI sequencers,
- evaluate MIDI equipment and software needs for specific musical projects,
- compose, sequence, and perform simple, original electro-acoustic musical works,
- and choose appropriate timbres and combinations of timbres in differing musical contexts.

GRADING: Point System

Basis:

Mid-term Exam	100	A= 900-1,000
Final Exam	100	B= 800-899
Sequencing Project	100	C=700-799
“Hands-on” Quizzes(4 @100pts each)	400	D=600-699
Concert/Book/Magazine Reports	100	F=000-599
Attendance and Participation	100	
Lab Projects	<u>100</u>	
Total	1,000 points	

• *The Mid-term and Final Exam* will be written tests based on material from assigned readings and from class lectures and demonstrations.

• *The Sequencing Project* will be an original electronic music composition (or an electronic arrangement of an existing piece of music) recorded using the *Digital Performer* MIDI sequencing program. Detailed instructions will be given during the last few weeks of the semester. Work on the project will be done in MU 135 or MU 141 outside of class time.

• *The four “Hands-on” Quizzes* will be given throughout the semester and will consist of students individually demonstrating proficiency with the equipment being studied. Specific tasks will be assigned in advance so students may practice in advance of the quiz.

• *Concert/Book/Periodical reports* will be worth 50 points each and students are required to complete two. Students will attend pre-approved electro-acoustic music concerts or read articles from a list of approved sources and respond to questions on a one-page report form. (Available from instructor.)

• *Consistent, prompt attendance* is mandatory!

• *Music 161 students are required to complete additional lab projects*, outside of class time.