

JRV School of Music and Recording Technology

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Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Course Description

Music Production 101 provides a focused and practical introduction to the art and science of music production. Students will master the use of Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs) like Logic Pro and Pro Tools to compose, arrange, and produce music. The course emphasizes the technical and creative aspects of music production, equipping students with hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills. This course aligns with **National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)** standards by addressing essential competencies in technical proficiency, creativity, and professional collaboration.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to DAWs

- What is a Digital Audio Workstation
- Overview of Logic Pro and Pro Tools
- Signal flow & equipment setup
- Setting audio and MIDI preferences
- Saving, exporting, and file management

Week 2: Recording Fundamentals

- Audio recording techniques
- Types of microphones and proper usage
- Gain staging and signal optimization
- Setting up a recording session

Week 3: MIDI Programming

- MIDI recording and editing basics
- Quantization and grooves
- Using virtual instruments
- Introduction to MIDI controllers

Week 4: Pro Tools and Logic Interfaces

- Understanding Pro Tools and Logic interfaces
- Loading, playing, and editing clips
- Preparing to record MIDI and audio
- Using MIDI editor tools (pencil tool, grid configuration)
- Quantizing and editing MIDI velocities

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Week 5: Advanced DAW Techniques

- Configuring grids and fold view
- Working with legato options
- Advanced MIDI editing
- Managing files and exporting clips
- Optimizing performance for complex projects

Week 6: Arrangement Techniques

- Using arrangement view
- Recording and managing audio tracks
- Punch in/out recording
- Using grids and multi-output devices
- Structuring arrangements for songs

Week 7: Mixing and Effects

- Mixer overview: Arm and solo tracks
- Using sends, returns, and manual feedback
- EQ and filters (L/R, M/S EQing)
- Dynamic processing: Compression, gating, and reverb
- Understanding delay and side-chain compression

Week 8: Automation Techniques

- Automation envelopes: Recording and editing
- Real-time and manual automation
- Using fades and crossfades
- Advanced automation techniques for creative effects

Week 9: Instruments and Sampling

- Live software instruments
- Impulse and Simpler sampling tools
- Drum racks and FX chains
- Creating and managing instrument racks
- Using macros and velocity zone editors

Week 10: Sound Design and Modulation

- Introduction to synthesizers and VST plugins
- Using Lennar Digital Sylenth, reFX Nexus, Native Instrument Kontakt
- Vocoding and resampling
- Reverse reverb techniques

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Week 11: Song Structures and Layering

- Arrangement structures and genre-specific needs
- Layering samples and synth sounds
- FX placement and automation for transitions
- Secrets to creating melodies and hooks

Week 12: Mixing and Mastering Fundamentals

- Advanced mixing workflows
- Mastering chains and loudness standards
- Exporting for various distribution platforms

Week 13: Collaborative Production

- Team-based production projects
- Communication and workflow management
- Integrating individual contributions into a cohesive track

Week 14: Refinement and Advanced Techniques

- Reviewing collaborative projects
- Using advanced effects and automation
- Preparing final tracks for presentation

Week 15: Final Project Preparation

- Individual project review and feedback
- Polishing tracks for professional presentation

Week 16: Final Project Presentation

- Presentation of individual or collaborative tracks
- Peer and instructor critique
- Final reflections and course wrap-up

Evaluation Criteria

Grading Breakdown:

- Weekly Assignments: 30% (Hands-on exercises and DAW tasks)
- Quizzes: 20% (Assessment of production concepts)
- Final Project: 50% (Comprehensive production portfolio piece)

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Grading Scale:

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 70-79 = C
- 60-69 = D
- Below 60 = F

NASM Competency Integration

This course is designed to meet NASM's standards by:

- Focusing on advanced technical skills for music production.
- Encouraging professional collaboration and leadership.
- Supporting artistic growth and creative exploration.

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