COMMON COURSE OUTLINE: Course discipline/number/title: MUSC 1601: Electronic Music Composition I

A. CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1. Credits: 3
2. Hours/Week: 6
3. Prerequisites (Course discipline/number): None
4. Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course is a "hands-on" introduction to the world of contemporary electronic music. Students will investigate the relationship between computer, software, electronic instruments, and original music creation. The student will investigate basic MIDI concepts, music creation applications, basic audio recording concepts, and the planning process for original music creation. The student will be presented with and practice the use of numerous software and hardware packages in the multi-station electronic music lab and will then be given individual studio time in one of the MIDI studios for original music compositions.

B. DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year): December, 2007

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:

1. What is electronic music and MIDI?
   a) History of Electronic Music
   b) Basic MIDI and Audio terminology
   c) Special computer applications for MIDI and audio
   d) The computer
   e) The sequencer
   f) Audio Editing
   g) Digital Processing
   h) CD-Creation
   i) Streaming and Compressed Media
   j) Synthesizers, Sound Modules, and Samplers
      1. Hands-on experience
      2. Weekly projects

2. Original Music Creation Concepts
   a) Creativity and the decision-making process
   b) Use of Repetition/Contrast
   c) Rhythmic and Melodic Motives and use of Phrase
   d) Music Line
   e) Music Texture
   f) Use of Music Timbre
   g) Music Form
   h) Use of Music Dynamics

3. Planning the project
   a) Technical Considerations
   b) Music Considerations

4. The Mix-down Process
   a) Balance of music tracks
   b) Balance of music pan

5. Presentation of projects

6. The Project Critique Process
   a) Critical Listening Skills
   b) Constructive Feedback
   c) Feedback Terminology and Application
D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the technical and artistic basics of music creation.
2. Demonstrate understanding of: basic terminology, the science and art of sound, MIDI, multi-track audio recording, computer and synthesizer used in creation, creation of original music and the pressing of individual CD’s and CD-E’s, development of verbal terminology for critique of music compositions.

E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives, which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions, which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
5. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Objective and short answer tests
2. Essay Tests
3. Small Projects
4. Larger, short term projects
5. Portfolio, long term projects
6. Skill performance

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any):
Tuition differential