COURSE SYLLABUS

South Plains College

Technical Education Division

Creative Arts Department

Sound Technology Program

Levelland Campus

DEPT-NO: MUSC 1450 (4:3:4)
COURSE: Remixing
SECTIONS:
1450.001

COURSE TITLE: MUSC 1450 Remixing
INSTRUCTOR: Chris Neal
OFFICE: Commercial Music Building CA 105
PHONE: 806-894-9611 x 2021 (direct line: 716-2021)
E-MAIL: cneal@southplainscollege.edu
OFFICE HOURS: POSTED ON INSTRUCTORS DOOR and online (see Communication section)
WEB SITE: http://southplainscollege.blackboard.com/

SOUTH PLAINS COLLEGE IMPROVES EACH STUDENT'S LIFE

I.   GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**:**
   a.   **Course Description:** Basic techniques necessary to produce finished remixes of previously recorded musical compositions. Includes using audio and MIDI "beats" and "loops." In this course, the student is presented with an overview of the remixing process, as well as the basic techniques necessary to produce finished remixes of previously recorded musical compositions. Basic to intermediate editing and mixing concepts are explored, tempo determination & extraction techniques are explored as well as audio conforming, virtual instrument usage, intermediate and advanced sampler techniques, and using and manipulating loops. Students will be required to work on projects outside of class.

   b.   **Course Learning Outcomes:** Determine tempos and rhythms; integrate vocals and pre-recorded instruments; develop complementary musical structures; apply creative effects; demonstrate mixing of audio to create remixes. In addition, the student will be able to: explain the various types of remixes; utilize basic to intermediate audio mixing techniques to create remixes of existing audio material; utilize techniques for conforming audio to various tempos and/or alternating tempos; utilize samplers to manipulate audio in the remix; utilize loops in remixes; utilize Elastic Audio and Beat Detective from Pro Tools; demonstrate integration of vocals and pre-recorded instruments; demonstrate development of complementary melodic structures; and apply creative effects. Mastering the contents of this course will enable the student to successfully create professional sounding remix projects.

   c.   **Course Competencies:** To receive a passing grade for this course a student must be able to master at least 60% of the skills and knowledge demonstrated throughout the semester. The student must be able to operate recording equipment, including Pro Tools software/hardware using standard commercial studio techniques. The student will use his/her own creativity to "remix" several projects. The student will remix the project to commercially accepted standards. The student will perform advanced audio editing techniques, create tempo maps, manipulate and conform audio to the tempo map, utilize samplers, real and virtual instruments, and "loops" to complete the remix projects.

   d.   **Academic Integrity:** It is the aim of the faculty of South Plains College to foster a spirit of complete honesty and a high standard of integrity. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own any work which he or she has not honestly performed is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense and renders the offender liable to serious consequences, possibly suspension. Students should refer to the SPC General Catalog policy regarding consequences for cheating and plagiarism. (See "Academic Integrity" as well as "Student Conduct" sections in the college catalog). At times, working with other students is encouraged for some assignments. If you have a question as to whether you may work with other students on any assignment, ask your instructor.

II.   SPECIFIC COURSE/INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS:
   a.   **Textbooks**:
       i.   The Remix Manual By Simon Langford
       ii.   Ableton Live 9: Create, Produce, Perform. 1st Ed. By Keith Robinson
       iii.   Pro Tools Reference Guide v2018.7
       iv.   In addition, the instructor may use handouts and other supplemental material, which will be made available online.

   b.   **Attendance Policy:** Any student may be withdrawn from the course at the instructor's discretion if either 1) in compliance with the general attendance policy of South Plains College, a student fails to attend class for two consecutive weeks; 2) if the student has in excess of 3 excused or unexcused absences; or 3) it is determined by the instructor based on the student's grades and attendance record that the student is unable to pass the course. Any student not present when roll is taken will be counted absent. A student who comes in after roll is taken can request that the absence be changed to a tardy after the class is over. Every absence above 3 will result in a ½ letter grade reduction in your final grade, as described in section "II g Grading Policy". A Tardy counts as ½ of an unexcused

absence. Excessive Absences/Drops: In order to avoid a grade of "F" appearing on his/her transcript, the student should formally withdraw from the class if he/she no longer plans to attend. Students who receive financial aid and have excessive absences will be reported to the Dean of Students. Due to the amount and technical nature of the information it is imperative that students attend and are attentive during class time.   Assignments, Quizzes, etc. missed may only be made up if arrangements are made with the instructor prior to the absence. Call or email the instructor if you are not going to be able to attend.

Also see section III g for further information on Attendance.

c. **Assignment Policy:** Students will be required to complete various out-of-class assignments and projects.   Details regarding these projects and assignments will be distributed to the class.

d. **Workload Policy**: For college level courses you should plan on 2 hours of work outside of the classroom for every hour in the classroom. This means for a 4 credit course, like this course, you should plan on 8 hours a week for readings, homework, projects, etc. So please plan accordingly!

e. **Weekly Preparation**: Prior to each class meeting, you are expected to have 1) read the assigned readings and 2) completed any class or homework assignments.

f. **Communication:**
   i.   Office Hours: My regular office hours will be posted on my door and are also available online on Blackboard. Other meeting times can be arranged by appointment. You may stop by my office at anytime, however, making an appointment will ensure my undivided attention. If at anytime during the semester you require help or special consideration regarding any subject, please feel free to contact me. I encourage you to utilize these office hours and appointments.
   ii. E-mail: I will utilize e-mail during the course of the semester to communicate with you. It is important that you have an active email and know how to use (or learn) e-mail, the Internet, and computing in general (such as word processing, graphics, and database management) as part of your college education.
   iii. I will utilize Blackboard (url listed at the beginning of this syllabus) to post documents, hand-outs, additional required readings and other communications online. If you have questions regarding Blackboard please see your instructor or go log-on to your MySPC page, which also can link you to Blackboard.

g. **Grading Policy:** Students will be graded by examination, assignments, in-class exercises, projects, class participation, and quizzes.
   i.   Exams will represent 20% of your final grade.
   ii. Projects will represent 40% of your final grade.
   iii. Assignments & Exercises will represent 25% of your final grade.
   iv. Professionalism will represent 15% of your final grade.
   v.   Students will not be allowed to make-up or re-take any test or quiz. Students will be allowed to take exams early by making arrangements with the instructor. Exceptions may be made for extreme medical or family related issues at the instructor's discretion.

h. **Grading Format:**
   i.   A = 90 - 100%; B = 80 - 89%; C = 70 - 79%; D = 60 - 69%; F =   0 - 59%
   ii. The instructor reserves the right to drop any student if the student's overall grade is below 60%.

i. **Miscellaneous:**
   i.   There will be no phones, pagers, PDA's, or electronic devices of any nature allowed during testing.
   ii. All electronic devices, including cell phones and computers, must be turned off during class unless you have received instructor permission prior to class. Any student that violates the above will receive a "0" for that day and be asked to leave with an absence.
   iii. Using phones or text messaging during class will result in immediate dismissal from the class and result in an unexcused absence for that class period. If you must take a call or read/answer a text message please leave the classroom, as making/taking calls and text messaging during class is distracting to the instructor and other students. Leaving class repeatedly to make/take calls or text messages will result in a loss of professionalism points.
   iv. I expect: students to be on time, awake & attentive, respectful, and complete the assignments and readings on-time.
   v.   The student can expect: class to start and end on-time, proper time to prepare for tests and complete assignments, and to be treated with respect.

j. **Late Policy:** All materials to be turned in (papers, assignments, etc) are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any assignment or homework received after the class period on the due date will be penalized based on the following, using business/school days M-F:

    i. 1 day late: 2.5% deduction; 2 days late: 5% deduction; 3 days late: 10%; and 4 days to 1 week late: 25% deduction; Late assignments **will not be accepted after 1 week** and will receive a zero.

    ii. There may be some assignments or projects where this late policy will not apply and the project or assignment will not be accepted beyond the due date. This will be communicated on the project details handout for the project or assignment.

III. DESCRIPTIONS**:**

a. **Active Participation**: Active participation in this course is required and is an important part of the learning process. Class participation points will be earned for your active participation during class discussions and class exercises. Class participation points may be lost for absence, lateness, or leaving class early. Students are expected to participate in various in-class activities that are designed to enhance the learning process. These individual and/or small group activities will make up the students class participation grade. The points from these activities may not be made up in the event of an absence.

b. **Examinations**: The tests will be made up of any combination of multiple-choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, hands-on, and other various formats.

c. **Out-of-Class Exercises**: There will be several exercises that will be completed outside of class. The exercise will be designed to allow the student to practice the techniques taught during lectures. The exercises are intended to be able to be completed in CB 135, the Pro Tools lab. Please use this lab as much as possible to relieve the stress on studio booking.

d. **Projects**:

    i. Students will engineer one major remix project and several smaller assignments. Details about this project will be distributed to the class. The final project **must include** a tempo map with several tempo changes that occur during the song, audio that has been conformed to tempo, added (not original) audio/music tracks (through the use of loops, virtual instruments and samplers). Permission to deviate from these requirements must be obtained in advance from the instructor.

    ii. Students will receive some priority studio time to work on their remix projects. Personal studio time will also be available for projects. Studio time and booking procedures will be discussed in class. Additional time will be made available for the in-studio assignments. The time is available on a first come - first served basis and students must comply with published studio rules when completing studio request forms. Much of the work on the final remix can be completed in CB 135, the Pro Tools lab. Please use this lab as much as possible to reserve the studios for projects that can ONLY be completed in-studio.

    iii. The instructor will provide options of existing tracks to be used for projects. Students are welcome to find other available tracks, or remix their own (or other students) projects. The tracks must be presented to the instructor for approval at or near the distribution of the project details.

    iv. Students must follow all recording studio rules and regulations as posted in each studio. The student engineer is responsible for making all participants in the session aware of proper procedures. If participants are unwilling to comply with studio rules, the student engineer should notify the staff member on studio watch or an instructor. Non-compliance with studio rules constitutes grounds for loss of studio privileges.

    v. Students must follow specific guidelines in the placement, naming, storage and back-up of their studio files. Failure to follow the prescribed guidelines may result in a deduction in the student's project and/or professionalism grade(s). Continued disregard of the policies may result in loss of studio privileges.

    vi. Extreme profanity, vulgarity, or lyrical content that would be considered offensive to people of a specific race, religious belief, gender, sexual orientation or other affected groups is not suitable for the educational objectives of this project. Any attempt to record such material will result in a loss of studio privileges. No project containing such material will be accepted for grading. Acceptable conduct is expected of SPC students while engaged in school-related activities. Please refer to the general catalog and student handbook for further information.

e. **Recording Supplies**: The student will need to provide CDs for the submitted mixes of their projects. The student will also be required to submit their session files and all necessary audio for each project. The student must back up their project(s) on CD, DVD and/or personal hard-drive and ensure that the backup is totally functional. You can also utilize the "ST_Ludwig" computer and attached hard drive, and the "ST_Storage" network drive (active projects only) to backup your data. Work lost from the hard drive must not prevent the student from turning in a project. The student is responsible to purchase the necessary CDs and DVDs to turn in projects and assignments and backup their data.

f. **Meeting Place**: the class will typically meet in CB 122, however we will also may conduct class in other studios.

g. **Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend all classes in order to be successful in a course. The student may be administratively withdrawn from the course when absences become excessive as defined in the course syllabus.

When an unavoidable reason for class absence arises, such as illness, an official trip authorized by the college or an official activity, the instructor may permit the student to make up work missed. It is the student's responsibility to complete work missed within a reasonable period of time as determined by the instructor. Students are officially enrolled in all courses for which they pay tuition and fees at the time of registration. Should a student, for any reason, delay in reporting to a class after official enrollment, absences will be attributed to the student from the first class meeting.

Students who enroll in a course but have "Never Attended" by the official census date, as reported by the faculty member, will be administratively dropped by the Office of Admissions and Records. A student who does not meet the attendance requirements of a class as stated in the course syllabus and does not officially withdraw from that course by the official census date of the semester, may be administratively withdrawn from that course and receive a grade of "X" or "F" as determined by the instructor. Instructors are responsible for clearly stating their administrative drop policy in the course syllabus, and it is the student's responsibility to be aware of that policy.

It is the student's responsibility to verify administrative drops for excessive absences through MySPC using his or her student online account. If it is determined that a student is awarded financial aid for a class or classes in which the student never attended or participated, the financial aid award will be adjusted in accordance with the classes in which the student did attend/participate and the student will owe any balance resulting from the adjustment.

IV. ACCOMODATIONS:

a. 4.1.1.1. Diversity Statement
In this class, the teacher will establish and support an environment that values and nurtures individual and group differences and encourages engagement and interaction. Understanding and respecting multiple experiences and perspectives will serve to challenge and stimulate all of us to learn about others, about the larger world and about ourselves. By promoting diversity and intellectual exchange, we will not only mirror society as it is, but also model society as it should and can be.

b. 4.1.1.2. Disabilities Statement
Students with disabilities, including but not limited to physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities, who wish to request accommodations in this class should notify the Disability Services Office early in the semester so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting accommodations must provide acceptable documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Services Office. For more information, call or visit the Disability Services Office at Levelland (Student Health & Wellness Office) 806-716-2577, Reese Center (Building 8) 806-716-4675, or Plainview Center (Main Office) 806-716-4302 or 806-296-9611.

c. 4.1.1.3. Non-Discrimination Statement
South Plains College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Vice President for Student Affairs, South Plains College, 1401 College Avenue, Box 5, Levelland, TX 79336. Phone number 806-716-2360.

d. 4.1.1.4 Title IX Pregnancy Accommodations Statement
If you are pregnant, or have given birth within six months, Under Title IX you have a right to reasonable accommodations to help continue your education. To activate accommodations you must submit a Title IX pregnancy accommodations request, along with specific medical

documentation, to the Director of Health and Wellness. Once approved, notification will be sent to the student and instructors. It is the student's responsibility to work with the instructor to arrange accommodations. Contact Chris Straface, Director of Health and Wellness at 806-716-2362 or email cstraface@southplainscollege.edu for assistance.

e.   Campus Concealed Carry - Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in South Plains College buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and South Plains College policy, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations and Frequently Asked Questions, please refer to the Campus Carry page at: http://www.southplainscollege.edu/campuscarry.php

f.   Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all South Plains College campuses. Report violations to the College Police Department at 806-716-2396 or 9-1-1.