

**MUC 2631**  
**Pro Tools for the Composer**  
**Professor: Dr. David Manson**  
**EI 202**  
**727.341.4363**

**DESCRIPTION:**

MUC 2631 explores AVID's Pro Tools as a compositional tool. A strong emphasis on film scoring will be reinforced by listening, analysis, arranging and compositional projects using Pro Tools.

**PROCESS:**

Student meets twice per week with the professor in TE 148 for instruction, critiques and discussion of projects. Students are expected to make significant progress on their projects between lessons. Creativity is encouraged, along with fundamental knowledge of Pro Tools and composition.

**GRADES:** Your grade will be determined by ten projects (70%), a mid-term exam (10%), Discussion Board postings (10%) and a final exam (10%).

**OBJECTIVES:**

1. to set goals with respect to style, composition techniques, media and structure
2. to develop computer-aided music scoring, sequencing and mixing
3. to develop music synthesis and recording technique
4. to explore composition for electronic media
5. to define and set personal style
6. to investigate and experiment with a wide range of compositional techniques
7. to consolidate new compositional techniques in one's personal vocabulary
8. to extend one's sense of structure and demonstrate this in one's work
9. to use the Internet to discover resources and exchange ideas
10. to develop a portfolio of projects that demonstrate musical and technical skills for potential clients

**MIRA Attendance Policy**

The MIRA-AS program develops skills needed by musicians to thrive in a diverse and competitive music industry where successful musicians are on time and prepared. Towards this goal, please keep in mind important MIRA departmental policies:

1. Class attendance is required.

- a. No excused absences, except for serious illness (w/doctor's note), or family loss.
- b. Classes that meet once a week: 2 absences allowed with no penalty. Each absence after 2 will result in 5% off your final grade. If you have 4 or more absences (with penalties) prior to the 60% point, you will be dropped from the class.
- c. Classes that meet twice a week: 4 absences allowed with no penalty. Each absence after 4 will result in 5% off your final grade. If you have 5 or more absences (with penalties) prior to the 60% point, you will be dropped from the class.

2. Arrive to class on time.

- a. Tardies: Students arriving late to class receive a tardy. 3 tardies = 1 absence. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late may be counted as absent.
- b. Leaving Early: Students who don't contact the professor by the next class meeting if they leave class early (for any reason) will receive an absence for that day.

3. Submit coursework on time.

In the music industry a missed deadline means you do not get paid, and likely do not get called back. Now is the time for you develop a professional work ethic by turning in *all* course work on time.

4. Professional conduct

Students will be asked to leave class for excessive texting surfing, chatting, sleeping, etc. If asked to leave, student will also be marked absent and, therefore, subject to the attendance policy.

**Availability:** I am available for assistance during office hours, during class and generally respond to inquiries within 24 hours between Monday - Friday. My office hours are posted on my door in EI 202.

**Hardware:**

The HS 120 Production Lab contains all of the equipment needed for this course except headphones. YOU MUST PROVIDE YOUR OWN HEADPHONES with a

1/4 inch adaptor. Lab hours are posted on the door.

### **Managing and Archiving:**

Students are responsible for managing, and archiving their digital files. Class files must be uploaded to the designated server before every class ends or placed in the designated student folder on the desktop. They cannot be left on the lab computers between classes. Files will be erased on a daily basis.

Back-up storage media options include: USB Flash Memory device USB external hard drive Firewire or Thunderbolt external hard drive (best) A dedicated external FireWire hard drive is the best way to run Pro Tools and manage digital files. The internal hard drive that came with your computer is already running your operating system, as well as other applications. If you force it to also record and playback multiple audio tracks, you risk getting error messages and other problems. USB drive enclosures are not as good as Firewire because USB drives steal precious CPU resources from your computer.

Note: When you purchase a new memory device, make sure to re-format it with the latest operating system. For Mac go to: Applications/Utilities/Disk Utility.app Select the device and click Erase. This will format your device and give you a clean slate to write on.

**Technical Assistance:** The staff associated with the SPC Help Desk have NO training in any of the music applications used in this course. They can help you with problems related to Angel, our course format. The MIRA program student monitors have some experience with the applications in the lab.

**Technical Help Desk:** For assistance in technical aspects of online courses, email [onlinehelp@spcollege.edu](mailto:onlinehelp@spcollege.edu) or call (727) 341-4357 (HELP) 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. Monday-Saturday (EST) 1:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Sunday (EST)

**Library Online:** This is a link to the SPC Library Online: <http://www.spjc.edu/central/libonline/> You probably won't need it for this course, but I'm required to place it here. Our library has several books related to audio production.