MUSI1561: Creative Music Studio 1
Newcastle City Precinct
Semester 1 - 2024

The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.

OVERVIEW

Course Description	This course inspires students individually and in groups to begin developing, creating and recording their own music. It cultivates both technical and creative practices that support the writing, arranging and recording of music with an emphasis on using technology as a creative tool. The course covers fundamental concepts of song writing, music composition and sound design in addition to digital production skills relevant to this level of study.
Academic Progress Requirements	Nil
Requisites	If you have successfully completed MUSI1301 or MUSI1201, you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Newcastle City Precinct

Lectorial
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 6 week(s) starting Week 1

Tutorial
Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per week(s) for 6 week(s) starting Week 1

Workshop
Face to Face On Campus
2 hour(s) per week(s) for 6 week(s) starting Week 7

Unit Weighting	10
Workload	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	**Newcastle City Precinct** Dr Martin Koszolko Martin.Koszolko@newcastle.edu.au Consultation: Available to meet via Zoom, phone or in person (contact hours by arrangement)
Teaching Staff	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
School Office	**School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences** NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

SYLLABUS

Course Content

- Creating music and sound
- Harnessing and developing musical ideas
- Understanding the song writing process
- Exploring words and music
- Approaches to composing music
- Understanding music structure and texture
- Using music production technology
- Music recording techniques

Course Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Use music and sound design terminology in communication

2. Review existing music compositions and describe their musical elements

3. Employ sound studio technology and audio equipment to produce a music recording

4. Evaluate the creative aspects of their own composition

Course Materials

Multi-Media Resource:
- See Canvas course website for details

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	26 Feb	Course introduction, Introduction to software	Creating drum patterns using Ableton's built-in drum rack. Time signatures and BPM and how they affect drum patterns.	
2	4 Mar	Creating drum patterns in different musical styles	Creating drum patterns in various styles. Elements that make a drum pattern fit a specific style.	
3	11 Mar	Advanced techniques in Ableton Live.	Using MIDI effects and audio effects. Humanising and micro edits.	
4	18 Mar	A1 review, feedback, software help. A2 introduction.	Using portable audio recorders to make field recordings. Guidelines for	Assessment 1

		Introduction to Field Recordings.	making quality recordings.	
5	25 Mar	Field Recording & Collection. Musique concrete. Sonification.	Students go out, make their own field recordings and upload them to a shared online platform. Discuss and evaluate the recordings as a group.	
6	1 Apr	**No classes this week due to:** Easter Monday - Monday, April 1, 2024. University Concession Day - Tuesday, April 2, 2024 **Make up classes scheduled in Week 13.**	-	
7	8 Apr	Found sounds in a music composition.	Collaborative production tips. Evaluating recordings for the composition. Experimenting with different sound combinations and layering techniques.	
Mid-Semester Recess				
Mid-Semester Recess				
8	29 Apr	Found sounds in a music composition. Playing the Ableton Push.	Using Ableton Live software to produce final music composition. Applying the techniques learned in class to create a unique and creative piece of music.	Assessment 2
9	6 May	Assessment 3 workshop.	Non-linear music composition. Features of the Session View in Ableton Live. Composing and performing with Ableton Push.	
10	13 May	Assessment 3 workshop.	Composition (Develop Motif and Structure). Rhythmic Modulation. Looping and recording with the Push.	
11	20 May	Assessment 3 workshop.	Composition (Refine structure and arrangement). Signal flow.	
12	27 May	Assessment 3 workshop.	EQ, Effects. A3 review and feedback.	
13	3 Jun	Assessment 3 demonstrations.	Students present their A3 projects to the class. Feedback on the students' work.	Assessment 3
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Drum Programming and Style Analysis	Week 4 - 20 March 2024 11:59 PM	Individual	30%	1, 2
2	Field Recordings in Music Production	Week 8 – 1 May 2024 11:59 PM	Group	35%	3, 4
3	Performance Ready Composition	Week 13 - 3 June 2024	Individual	35%	1, 3, 4

Late Submissions — The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Drum Programming and Style Analysis

Assessment Type	Report
Description	Produce short drum pattern phrases in 3 different musical styles. Analyse 3 existing music compositions that serve as well-established examples of the selected styles.
Weighting	30%
Length	3 x 32bars + 600-800 words
Due Date	Week 4 - 20 March 2024 by 11:59 PM
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Refer to grading criteria in Canvas
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas course website

Assessment 2 - Field Recordings in Music Production

Assessment Type	Project
Description	Produce a music composition with the use of field recordings created by the group.
Weighting	35%
Length	4 minutes of audio plus 500 words reflection
Due Date	Week 8 – 1 May 2024 by 11:59 PM
Submission Method	Online via Canvas course website
Assessment Criteria	Refer to grading criteria in Canvas
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas course website

Assessment 3 - Performance Ready Composition

Assessment Type	Practical Demonstration
Description	Create a music project in Ableton Live's session view and demonstrate music performance-ready elements, specifically focusing on non-linear composition and arrangement, modulation/automation, and the recording/programming of drums, chords, and melody.
Weighting	35%
Length	4 minutes of audio plus 500 words reflection
Due Date	Week 13 - 3 June 2024
Submission Method	Online and In class
Assessment Criteria	Refer to grading criteria in Canvas website
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	Online via Canvas course website

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme   This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Communication Methods   Communication methods used in this course include:
- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation   Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

Oral Interviews (Vivas)   As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.

Academic Misconduct   All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .

Adverse Circumstances	The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:
	1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
	2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
	3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
	4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.
	Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:
	https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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