

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course # X 448.1F Discipline: Music

Course Title: *The Art of Digital DJing: Mixing Music, Video, and Technology*

Reg. # V4500 Units: 2

Quarter/Yr: Winter 2010

Day/Time: Saturdays, 10am-1pm

Dates: January 9 & 23; February 6 & 20; March 6, 20 & 27

Location: Westwood: 1010 Westwood Center, room B06

Instructors: Gautam Banerjee & Alan Cannistraro

Instructor contact:

Course Description:

Learn cutting edge digital DJing techniques to take you to the next level! This course is designed for digital artists, amateur and club DJs, songwriters and musicians, and anyone else wishing to add unique visual elements to their live performances. Using your own laptop, learn basic and advanced techniques of DJing, including mashups, selecting and manipulating video, live sampling, and creating your own on-stage instruments. This is a hands on course and you will perform live in class. Throughout the course, you have creative freedom to incorporate your favorite music, video, and any personalized instruments.

System and other required software/equipment: Access to an intel Mac with 512 MB RAM (1 GB recommended), Mac OS X 10.5, Ableton Live 8 (student version and pricing available); and headphones. Internet access required retrieving course materials.

Goals & Objectives:

By the end of the course, you are able to understand the fundamentals of digital DJing, the art of mashups, perform live using video and music, and how to customize and create new instruments and controllers--such as using a Nintendo Wii controller to mix music. You also become familiar with Ableton Live and other software used for DJing music and video.

Recommended Readings:

Various website reference material given in class.

Grading:

Course grades will be based the on the completion of exams, assignments, and classroom participation as follows:~

Breakdown of the weight for each component of the final grade:

Assignment 1: 10 %

Assignment 2: 10 %

Assignment 3 10%

Assignment 4 20%

Exam #3: 30 %

Attendance/Punctuality: 10 %

Participation: 10 %

Letter

<u>Grade</u>	<u>%</u>
A	(90-100%)
B	(80-89%)
C	(70-79%)
D	(60-69%)
F	(≤59%)

A grade of 'C' or better is considered a passing grade. Certificate students must take 400 level courses for a grade.

Students are expected to participate, as this is a hands-on course. Performing for the class and asking questions is highly encouraged. Each student will have the opportunity to demonstrate techniques and receive feedback and troubleshooting help. Students will also be challenged to create their own instruments.

Please note that **ALL COURSE GRADES ARE FINAL.**

Information about Incompletes: The interim grade Incomplete may be assigned when a student's work is of passing quality, but a **small portion** of the course requirements is incomplete for good cause (e.g. illness or other serious problem). It is the student's responsibility to discuss with the instructor the possibility of receiving an "I" grade as opposed to a non-passing grade. The student is entitled to replace this grade by a passing grade and to receive unit credit provided they complete the remaining coursework satisfactorily, under the supervision of and in a time frame determined by the instructor in charge, but in no case later than the end of the next academic quarter. At that time, the Registrar will cause all remaining Incompletes to lapse to the grade "F". Note: Receiving an "I" does not entitle a student to retake all or any part of the course at a later date.

Student Behavior involving cheating, copying other's work, and plagiarism are not tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. Students are responsible for being familiar with the information on Student Conduct in the General Information Section of the UCLA Extension Catalog or on the website at www.uclaextension.edu

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Assignments/Readings
Week One: 1/9/10	DJing Basics Structure of Music Tempo & Key Mixing and Timing Song Selection DJ Styles Technology is your Friend Freeing yourself from the mechanics of DJing New ideas for creative expression and live performance Intro to Digital DJing Overview and comparison of popular digital DJing tools: Serato, Traktor, Ableton Ableton Live Intro Loop based DJing paradigm Multi-track selection Importing music to use and creating loops	Assignment 1: Import 1 track to Ableton Live, warp it, and create loops at points of interest
Week Two: 1/23/10	Ableton Live More on warping – how to warp stubborn tracks Effects: filter, flange, echo Exploring different effects Intro to MIDI History of MIDI Basics of MIDI Controller theory Routing MIDI from software to H/W Intro to Standard Controllers Mixers & keyboards Discrete vs continuous Triggers, faders, knobs How to map controls to Ableton Anatomy of a Mashup What makes a good mashup? Breaking music down into usable elements	Assignment 2: Identify a mashup and it's components. Assign a MIDI controller to an Ableton session.

<p>Week Three: 2/6/10</p>	<p>Alternative Controllers Learn about different controllers and how to use them (Joysticks, grid pads, iPhone, 2D touch surfaces, etc) History and examples of controllers used in performance (Laurie Anderson, Golan Levin, Bob Moog, etc) Using Music & Effects Filter, Flange, & Echo Explore different audio effects and parameters Using controllers to express yourself through effects Mashups How to find accapellas How to isolate vocals when you can't find the accapella How to fake an instrumental Warping accapellas</p>	<p>Assignment 3: A 5-10 minute set with controllers and effects. Identify music to compose a mashups</p>
<p>Week Four: 2/20/10</p>	<p>Review and Practice session Putting together a DJ Set Song selection and constructing sets Improvising Crowd feedback and energy</p>	<p>None. Work on sets.</p>
<p>Week Five: 3/6/10</p>	<p>Review student mashups Performance, feedback and critique Intro to Live Visuals A who's who of VJs today Different styles of visuals (Video vs. Visualizers; Effects) Video Tools A rundown of different VJ software and how they differ (Quartz Composer, Just Add Music, Nodul8, etc) Introduction to tool of choice (Quartz Composer or Just Add Music) Triggering video and music together using MIDI</p>	<p>Assignment 4: first complete mashup .</p>
<p>Week Six: 3/20/10</p>	<p>Part 1 of 2: Synchronization and final set Workshop Guest lecture on business of DJing, performance tips; Speaker TBD Planning your live performance Setting up your gear Enhancing your stage presence Audience interaction Practice session</p>	<p>Final exam prep</p>

Week Seven: 3/27/10	Exam Final student performances	Exam: final set 20 minute performance with controllers. Video optional
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