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: Devin Collins
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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 vCurrent
        iv. In addition, the instructor may use handouts and other supplemental material, which will be made available online.

    b. **Attendance:** 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.
        i. 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.

ii. Any student not present when roll is taken will be counted absent. A student who comes in after roll is taken may request that the absence be changed to a tardy after the class period has ended.

iii. Every absence above 3 will result in a ½ letter grade reduction in your final grade. A Tardy counts as ½ of an unexcused absence.

iv. 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.

b. **Supplies:** all students will need to have a USB drive to backup their assignments/projects. Due to certain restrictions on lab computer use, certain computers may not be available for use on a given day. Therefore, it is important for students to copy their files to the network storage drive and keep a physical copy of their files with them on a USB drive or other personal storage. A fast USB (3.0) with 32 or 64GB+ storage would be recommended. The student should also utilize the "ST_Storage" network drive to backup their data. The student is responsible to purchase any media necessary to turn in projects and assignments and backup their data.

c. **Assignment/Project Policy**: Students will be expected to read the textbook readings and watch video content as they relate to assignments and projects. Students will be required to complete several in- and out-of-class assignments and projects. Assignments and Projects will be distributed in class and where applicable will be available on Blackboard.

  i. **Late Policy:** All out-of-class projects & assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Any assignment or project 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. <u>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.</u> This will be communicated on the project details handout for the project or assignment.

d. **Make-up Work:** Assignments, tests, and other missed work can only be made up if arrangements are made with the instructor <u>prior</u> to an absence. Missed quizzes may not be made up under any circumstance.

e. **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!

f. **Weekly Preparation**: Prior to each class meeting, you are expected to have 1) read the assigned readings and 2) completed assignments. A weekly course schedule with reading assignments will be distributed to the class.

g. **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 <u>any</u> 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 grades, 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.

h. **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.

i. **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%.

j. **Miscellaneous:**
   i. <u>There will be no phones, laptops, or electronic devices **of any nature** allowed during class time or testing</u>. Use of a device during class will result in the students removal from class and the student's attendance grade for the day changed from Present to Tardy.
   ii. 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.
   iii. I expect: students to be on time, awake & attentive, respectful, and complete the assignments and readings on-time.
   iv. 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.

k. **Class Conduct**:
   i. Students are expected to be respectful of the instructor and the other students. Students should behave in a manner that reflects the degree of professionalism to be expected in a learning and professional audio environment. Students should not talk when the instructor is talking. When a student is asked to respond verbally other students should listen respectfully. The only time more than one person should be talking is when the instructor permits group discussion.
   ii. Sleeping in class is prohibited and will not be tolerated. If you are too tired to stay awake in class don't come. It is unprofessional, rude, and distracting to the instructor and to the rest of the class and you will be asked to leave. It is your responsibility to insure that you have the rest you need so that you may fully participate in the class. If you think you may have a sleeping disorder you must contact the Student Services office and get the proper counseling, treatment and/or accommodation for your disorder.
   iii. Medical/physiological conditions: The same goes for any other condition that you may have that could impact your performance in the classroom. There are services available to address learning disabilities, physical impairments, chronic illnesses, etc. but it is your responsibility to make arrangements with Student Services in order to find the most appropriate solution.
   iv. Respect the equipment. It belongs to everyone who is enrolled in Sound Technology courses. Budgets are very tight and equipment is expensive. If something gets destroyed, lost, or is taken it may not be replaced. If you see anyone abusing the gear or attempting to remove equipment from its designated area please tell an instructor or lab assistant. Use common sense. Audio equipment, whether it is a $50 mic stand or a $5000 pair of reference monitors, is delicate equipment and should not be forced or pushed too hard under any circumstances. If you think you need to force it you are doing it wrong! (Or someone else forced it and now it's messed up.) Get an instructor to help you.

l. **SPC Tutors:** Tutoring is FREE for all currently enrolled students. Make an appointment or drop-in for help at any SPC location or online! Visit the link below to learn more about how to book an appointment, view the tutoring schedule, and view tutoring locations.
   i. http://www.southplainscollege.edu/exploreprograms/artsandsciences/teacheredtutoring.php
   ii. **Tutor.com:** You also have 180 FREE minutes of tutoring with Tutor.com each week, and your hours reset every Monday morning. Log into Blackboard, click on the tools option from the left-hand menu bar. Click on the Tutor.com link and you will automatically be logged in for free tutoring. You may access tutor.com tutors during the following times:
      1. Monday – Thursday: 8pm-8am
      2. 6pm Friday – 8am Monday morning

III. DESCRIPTIONS:
   a. **Class Participation:** Active participation in this course is required and is an important part of the learning process. Students are expected to participate in various in-class activities that are designed to enhance the learning process.

   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. The exams will be administered in-class using Blackboard.

   c. **Quizzes**: On occasion, there will be quizzes given during or after lectures, or at the beginning of class over the assigned readings. These quizzes are intended to give the student an idea of how certain topics will be assessed on examinations, and to give the instructor feedback on the student's mastery of lecture topics. Make sure to bring a pencil/pen and paper in case of a pop quiz, or the quiz may be written or administered through Blackboard.

   d. **Assignments**: There will be weekly (8-12) assignments given throughout the semester. These assignments unless otherwise indicated on the instructions are individual assignments allowing the student to apply a given technique or set of techniques as described in class.

   e. **Projects**: There will be 2 projects given throughout the semester. The projects are individual projects and are intended to allow the student to demonstrate their mastery of techniques learned in class.
      i. Students will engineer two remix projects. Details about the 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.

   f. **Meeting Place**: the class will typically meet in CA135 (or TBD), 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.

h. **Assigning Grades:** The grade of "F" will be assigned to a student as an earned grade in regard to the learning objectives of a course. 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" as determined by the instructor.

An "F" will not be assigned to any student administratively withdrawn from a course for non-attendance by an 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.

i. **Professionalism:** Each student will start with 100 professionalism points. Points will be deducted for behavior or work that is deemed by the instructor to be unprofessional. This includes, but is not limited to the following: unapproved absences, lateness, failure to turn in assignments on time, sloppy or substandard work, uncooperative or negative attitude, disrespectful treatment of instructor or fellow students, inappropriate behavior, inappropriate attire, failure to turn off cell phones, misuse or abuse of equipment, etc. The severity of the offense will determine the amount of points taken off and will be solely at the instructor's discretion. Repeated offenses will result in more severe penalties.

IV. ACCOMODATIONS:

a. **Online Link:** https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/