

**MUSI 4327.001**  
**Class Number 30283**  
**T Th 9:30 am - 10:50 am**  
**FA 301**

**TECHNIQUES AND  
TECHNOLOGY IN  
FILM COMPOSITION**  
**Spring 2015 Syllabus**

**Professor Micah Hayes**  
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**Prerequisite:** MUSI 3394; and MUSI 2227, 3392, or instructor's approval.

**Faculty Profile:** [www.micahhayes.com/facultyprofile](http://www.micahhayes.com/facultyprofile)

**Description:** This course will teach student composers the technical and artistic requirements in composing for film and video. Students will learn how to properly spot a film, write music with exact timings, conceptualize a cue, mix acoustic and electronic music, understand the business side of film scoring, and create compelling MIDI mock-ups. Students will also learn how to combine acoustic recording with sampled MIDI sequencing in order to create a convincing film score.

**Office Hours:** Thursdays from 1pm-2pm and I am also available at other times by appointment (contact me via email).

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken regularly throughout the semester. At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy:

Any more than four unexcused absences will bring down your grade by 5%. For example, five absences will cause a 94% to become an 89%, six will cause a 94% to become an 84%, etc. Also, being tardy twice equals one absence. In order for an absence to be excused, the instructor must receive some sort of signed document in writing—e.g. a doctor's note excusing an illness, a letter from a pastor/priest/rabbi or family member excusing absence due to a death in the family, etc. Leaving class early will count as a tardy.

**Required Materials:** *The Reel World* by Rona, Jeff (1423434838), Second Edition (Paperback - 2009)—required.

You will also be **required** to subscribe to an account at **Lynda.com**. This is a video tutorial training site that will help supplement the material we cover in class. Students are **required** to subscribe the first week of class and will be monitored by me throughout the semester. The approximate cost (after the student discount) is about \$36.

**Recommended Materials:** *The Emerging Film Composer* by Bellis, Richard. *On the Track* by Karlin, Fred, Second Edition.

**Assignments:** This class is primarily project-based. Smaller projects will be assigned earlier in the semester, culminating in the final project where students will compose music to short films created by other students in the Art Department. Quizzes will be administered randomly and will be given at the beginning of class time.

<b>Grading:</b>	Final Project	50%
	Smaller Projects (spotting, mock-up, etc.)	35%
	Lynda Videos	10%
	Professionalism	05%

Grading Scale: A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 0-59%.

**Makeup Policy:** Late assignments *are not* accepted. If you have extenuating circumstances you must talk to me first and I must approve of a change *in writing*. You will not be allowed to makeup an exam unless you arrange an alternative solution *in writing* with me before the exam.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After successfully completing this course, students will:

- Understand how and why music is created for film
- Be able to spot a cue
- Be able to conceptualize, compose and arrange a cue
- Be able to create a convincing MIDI mock-up via mixing and arranging
- Be able to record and mix electronic and acoustic instruments in order to create a cue
- Understand the business-side of film scoring and be able to budget a project from beginning to end
- Be able to view and discuss film scores professionally and critically

**Drop Policy:** Refer to the UT Arlington drop policy for specific drop deadlines and further information.

**Studio Security (301):** It is EXTREMELY important that recording students use proper alarm protocol. After entering the room by swiping your ID and entering your pin, *immediately* punch in the alarm code—any sort of beeping should cease at that point. When exiting, please *punch in the same code and make sure the door is locked*. If something goes wrong and you cannot cancel the alarm, please call the campus police department at (817) 272-3381. Recordings students should not access the room until I put them on the authorized list (I will let you know when that occurs).

As of this semester, recording students are 100% financially responsible for the care and maintenance of the checked-out equipment. As the months go by, there will be more and more expensive gear in the studio, so *please* treat the equipment as if it were your own. Your maturity and good conduct will keep this program alive. If something goes wrong and you set off the alarm, please call the campus police department at (817) 272-3381.

Please leave the studio cleaner than you found it and please leave the room set up and lecture-ready (screen down, room open, piano pushed to the side, etc.)

**Communication:** I will communicate important information with you via email using the email address you have set up in the MyMav system. You will be held responsible for the information sent there, so ensure you check this email address DAILY. If you need assistance with MyMav, you may contact the Office of Information Technology (<http://oit.uta.edu>).

### Important Links:

[www.aes.org](http://www.aes.org) – Audio Engineering Society homepage

[www.aes-sda.org/cms](http://www.aes-sda.org/cms) – Student Delegation Assembly site for the AES

[www.gearslutz.com](http://www.gearslutz.com) – An online forum with all sorts of great information on all kinds of gear

<http://www.filmscoremonthly.com> – Online magazine of film scoring

**Approximate Course Schedule:** As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

Week 1: Course Introduction / Meaning in Film Music

Week 2: Intro to Logic Pro

Week 3: Conceptualize a Cue and Writing a Theme

Week 4: Workshop Student Cues / Demo CD is Due

Week 5: Spotting and Writing Assignment / Conceptualizing Assignment Due

Week 6: Mock-Ups and 2-Minute Film Assignment

Week 7: Presentations

Week 8: How to Record Audio in Logic / More Presentations

Week 9: 2-Minute Film Mix Due / Scoring Sessions Tips

Week 10: Mixing Acoustic and Electronic Music

Week 11: Youth Without Youth doc and The Reader

Week 12: Work on Final Project

Week 13: Final Picture Lock Given to Students

Week 14: Workshop Final Projects

Week 15: Budgets / Workshop Student Projects

Week 16: Final Exam: View Student Projects in Class

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "**reasonable accommodation**" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with **informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.**

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code: *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.* Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

**STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE:** The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

**DROP POLICY:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://web.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox DAILY. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**FINAL REVIEW WEEK:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**TITLE IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located near FA 302. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.