

**MUSI 4327-001**  
**Class Number 86108**  
**T Th 9:30 am - 10:50 am**  
**FA 301**

**TECHNIQUES AND  
TECHNOLOGY IN  
FILM COMPOSITION**  
**Spring 2010 Syllabus**

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

**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:** Mondays at 2pm and Tuesdays at 11am. I am also available at other times by appointment (contact me via email).

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken regularly throughout the semester. Any more than three unexcused absences will bring down your grade by 5%. For example, four absences will cause a 94% to become an 89%, five 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.

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

**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	40%
	Smaller Projects (spotting, mock-up, etc.)	40%
	Other assignments (listening, quizzes, etc.)	10%
	Class participation	10%

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):** Because there is no “room monitor” for the studio, it is EXTREMELY important that the 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 the months go by, there will be more and more expensive gear in the studio, so *please* do not give the security code to anyone outside the class. Your maturity and good conduct will keep this program alive. Also, please leave the studio cleaner than you found it.

**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

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 DISHONESTY: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2).

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.