

McLennan

C O M M U N I T Y

COLLEGE

WACO, TEXAS

COURSE SYLLABUS

AND

INSTRUCTOR PLAN

MIDI LAB
MUSCL – 1331 - 01
WILLIAM HOWARD

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

COVID 19 Notice:

McLennan Community College is committed to providing you with every resource you need to reach your academic goals including your safety. We will continue to monitor the evolving situation with COVID 19 and adjust our safety guidelines to make sure we offer a safe environment for you and our faculty. Please make sure to consult your faculty and the MCC website at <https://www.mclennan.edu/crisis-management/coronavirus-updates/index.html> on any changes to these guidelines.

Course Description:

The student will be able to demonstrate acceptable competency in the use of a functional MIDI system, including synthesizer basics, Reason sequencing applications, MIDI files, and Finale music notation software.

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

Corequisite: MUSCL 1331

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

To access updated information on textbooks, please visit <http://www.bkstr.com>

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: William Howard

MCC E-mail: whoward@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254.299.8217

Office Location: PAC 113

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: TBA

Required Text & Materials:

Required Supplies: Flash drive, ear buds or headphones

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture, discussion groups, lab exercises, projects, exams, quizzes, and tutorial software.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

- 1.) Understand synthesizer terminology.
- 2.) Understand the basic synthesizer engine.
- 3.) Understand the basic parameters of the MIDI protocol.
- 4.) Perform basic sequencing operations using Reason.
- 5.) Perform advanced editing operations using Reason.
- 6.) Import and export MIDI files between different programs.

- 7.) Create a chord chart using Finale.
- 8.) Create a lead sheet using Finale.
- 9.) Record sequences in Reason and convert these files into lead sheets using Finale.

Course Outline or Schedule:

8/22 - Introduction to Course / Acoustics of Sound

Unit One - Synthesizer Terminology / Basic Synth Engine / Intro to MIDI

8/24 - Synthesizer Terminology / Basic Synthesizer Engine Components

8/29 - Continued / Modulation

8/31 - MIDI Protocol Basics

9/5 -Labor Day Holiday

9/7 - MIDI Data Types / Splits, Layers, and Zones

9/12—Using MIDI Data / Review

9/14 - Written Test

Unit Two - Basic Sequencing and Editing with Reason

9/19 - Intro to Reason / The Reason Rack

9/21 - Getting Started with Reason

9/26 - Using Cut, Copy, And Paste Tweaks / Lab

9/28 - Sequencing with Reason

10/3 - Editing Data with Reason / Lab

10/5 - Continued / Lab

10/10 - MIDI Files

10/12 - Continued / Lab

10/17 - Lab

10/19 - Reason Sequencing Project Due

Unit Three - Basic Notation with Finale

10/24 - Intro to Finale / Simple Entry, Staff, Key Signature, Text, Time Signature Tools

10/26 - Clef, Measure, Mass Mover, Repeat Tools

10/31 - Review / Lab

Unit Four - Advanced Notation with Finale

11/2 - Chord Tool / Creating Chord Charts

11/7 - Lab

11/9 - Lyric Tool / Creating Lead Sheets

11/14 - Lab

11/16 - Advanced Finale Tools / Review

11/21 – Lab

11/23 – Thanksgiving Holiday

11/28 - Lab

11/30 - Finale Project Due

Course Grading Information:

The final grade for this course will be determined by three factors: the number of competencies successfully completed by each student (25%), the grade average for each test and assignment (50%), and the final course project (25%). The minimum passing grade for each competency, each test and assignment, and the final project is 70%. The grading scale for competencies is as follows:

9 competencies - A

8 competencies - B

7 competencies - C

6 competencies - D (**will not** be accepted as a prerequisite for future classes)

5 competencies or less – F

Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

Assignments for this course are normally due on the next class day and students should plan on completing these assignments as scheduled. Each student may at their discretion hand in one late regular assignment (not including final projects) on the second class day after receiving the assignment. Assignments handed in after that date may or may not be accepted at the instructor's discretion. Missed assignments will receive a grade of zero for that competency.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the instructor, prompt and regular attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the education opportunity.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability.

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu

254-299-8122

Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling Dr. Drew Canham (Chief of Staff for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion/Title IX) at (254) 299-8645. Individuals also may contact the MCC Police Department at 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at MCC at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student or employee may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>.

Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing SuccessCoach@mclennan.edu. Students may visit the Completion Center Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. to schedule a meeting with a Success Coach and receive additional resources and support to help reach academic and personal goals. Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff based on household size. Text (254) 870-7573 to schedule a pantry appointment. The Completion Center and pantry are located on the Second Floor of the Student Services Center (SSC).

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf.

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Go to www.mclennan.edu/academic-integrity for information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/student-email.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-an-outlook-account-in-the-ios-mail-app-b2de2161-cc1d-49ef-9ef9-81acd1c8e234?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)
- [Email Setup for Androids](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us) (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/set-up-email-in-android-email-app-71147974-7aca-491b-978a-ab15e360434c?ui=en-us&rs=en-us&ad=us>)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support Cheat Sheet](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.