Music 173: Electronic Music Production & Composition

Instructor: Jennifer Hsu (jsh008@ucsd.edu)
Course website: http://musicgrad.ucsd.edu/~jhsu/music173.html
Class meetings: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00AM - 1:50PM in CENTER 218

Course Description

This class is a project-based class that covers common music production methods for electronic music with a focus on the Ableton Live Suite. This course will cover MIDI, audio sampling and manipulation, and creative composition strategies. The course schedule as well as topics covered are subject to change depending on the instructor's discretion as well as student interest.

It is assumed that everyone in the class will use Ableton Live as their main composition tool for this course. Trial/demo versions of Live can be obtained for 30 days through the official website (https://help.ableton.com/hc/en-us/articles/209071129-Live-Trial-Installation-and-Setup). Significant student discounts are also available.

An expired Ableton Live trial is not an excuse for turning in projects late, and it is your responsibility to discuss software options with the instructor if trial expiration is an issue for you.

For the final project, you are welcome to use any software you like (Ableton, Logic, FL, etc) as long as you can describe in detail the process you used for creation.

If possible, please bring your laptops to class so that you can follow along with the lectures.

Office Hours

Office hours are by appointment. Please email me to set up a meeting or ask me before/after classes. Students are welcome to ask questions after each class.

Class Schedule

<u>WEEK 1</u>

Tuesday, August 6, 2019
        Introductions, syllabus, and logistics
        Ableton Live overview
        Making sound in Ableton (drawing, recording, and editing MIDI)
        Staying organized in Ableton

Thursday, August 8, 2019
        Ableton Instruments: melodic, drums and beats
        Basic synthesis techniques, samplers, and physical modeling instrument
                parameters
        MIDI Effects
        Talk about Project 1

<u>WEEK 2</u>

Tuesday, August 13, 2019
        Recording and editing audio
        Time-manipulating/Warping audio
        Audio Effects (part 1): Delay-based effects and filters

Thursday, August 15, 2019
        Audio Effects (part 2): Dynamics with distortion and compression, other effects
        Automation

📣Reminder: Project 1 is due by Tuesday, 8/20!

<u>WEEK 3</u>

Tuesday, August 20, 2019
        🌟 **Project 1 Presentations**
        Performing with Ableton Live (Part 1): Locaters, launching clips, follow actions
        Basic music theory for producers
        Talk about Project 2

Thursday, August 22, 2019
　　　　Performing with Ableton Live (Part 2):
　　　　　　　　Instrument Rack and Audio Effect Racks
　　　　　　　　Hardware controllers, Push 2 demo

📣Reminder: Project 2 is due by Tuesday, 8/27!

WEEK 4

Tuesday, August 27, 2019
　　　　🌟 **Project 2 Presentations**
　　　　Remixing songs
　　　　Analyzing and recreating parts of songs
　　　　Talk about Final Project and Final Project Milestone: Listening Assignment

Thursday, August 29, 2019
　　　　Humanizing your music / swing / groove
　　　　Analyzing the "off-gridedness" of songs in Ableton
　　　　Mixing strategies (Part 1): levels, stereo space, EQ and compression

📣Reminder: Final Project Milestone: Listening Assignment due by Tuesday, 9/3!

WEEK 5

Tuesday, September 3, 2019
　　　　🌟**Final Project Milestone: Listening Assignment Due and Class Discussion**
　　　　Mixing strategies (Part 2): reverb, drums, vocals, synths and instruments
　　　　Max for Live Introduction and experimental music ideas

Thursday, September 5, 2019
　　　　Course wrap up and final questions
　　　　Final Project work time

📣Reminder: Final Project Presentations on Saturday, 9/7 from 11:30AM to 2:00PM!

🌟 FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS
　　　　Saturday, September 7, 2019 from 11:30AM to 2:00PM

Assignments & Grading

For this course, you will complete two projects to demonstrate your understanding of basic production techniques as well as a final project. All three projects are composition-based. In addition, the final project also includes a listening and response assignment. All assignments are due before class on the discussion or presentation dates as noted in the class schedule. Points will be removed if assignments are submitted late. Assignment details will be announced and discussed in class. The grading for the course follows this grading breakdown:

Project 1: 20%
Project 2: 25%
Final Project Milestone - Listening Assignment: 10%
Final Project: 35%
Attendance / Participation: 10%