RTD 475 MIDI Production  
Spring Semester 2016 Syllabus

Instructor: Todd Herreman  
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Office: 13A (downstairs and down the hall from the New Media Center)  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2-5PM; Wednesday 1-4PM and by appointment.  
Office Phone: 453.3266 (office); 536.7555 (main RT office)  
Class Times:  Lecture/Lab: Tuesday 5-7:50PM (Lectures and lab times are combined)  
Room 9A, New Media Center, MCMA Building (downstairs)

Required Materials: Text: No text required for this course  
Firewire Drive (7200rpm, at least 50 gig free space recommended).  
Note: Students must possess their own hard drive by the end of the second week of class in order to continue to participate in the course. If there is a problem fulfilling this requirement, see instructor after class on the first day.

RTD 475 is 3 Credit Hours; Prerequisite: Grade of C or above in RTD375 or permission of instructor.

Course Description: This course will discuss MIDI fundamentals and scope of the protocol, from channel assignment, note on/off, velocity, timing, quantization, transposition, patch change and controller information to structural cut-and-paste, tempo control and sequence chaining. Comprehensive study of MIDI sequencing techniques, editing capabilities, and plug-in instruments will be applied and mastered with hands-on exercises and projects.

Course Objectives and Learning Expectations: Skills developed in this course will enable students to creatively and effectively utilize the most current MIDI technology for use in writing, arranging, recording and manipulating music and audio for albums, jingles and film /television. By the conclusion of the semester, students will have learned how to use this technology to conceive a project, incorporate many of the tools available, and produce a finished, professional-grade audio piece (and picture with audio). Further, these skills can be applied in professional production scenarios, from recording studios, sound design/audio post houses, and songwriter/composer studios. Also, these MIDI skills can easily be transferred to other audio platforms.

Attendance: Two unexcused absences will be allowed during the semester. Subsequent absences will result in result in a letter grade reduction. All assignments are due on time.

Participation: Active participation is required in all class discussions and critique sessions. Includes attendance, being on time, engaging in class, recording, etc.

Grading and Weight of Assignments:  
Projects: Four projects, each increasing in scope and complexity.
Projects will be graded based on completion of required elements, technical and creative use of tools, and overall success of the project. The parameters of each project are clearly outlined in the assignment handouts.

Project One: Reason – Rack Components, Sequencer, Editing, Exporting. 15%
Project Two: Reason with Host and Rewire. Rendering MIDI to Audio. 20%
Project Three: MIDI and Picture 20%
Project Four: Comprehensive Sessions, combining all of the above. 25%
Participation: (see above) 20%

Server Access: Go to “Connect to Server”, select the NMC server (nmc.siu.edu); Username is rtd475herreman and password is midi.

Lecture and Lab Schedule:
The course will include four areas: (note – many of these overlap in lectures, demos and assignments)
I. Sound Generation: Hardware, Software (current and legacy) and MIDI
   a. Synthesis (analog, digital)
   b. Sampling
   c. Processing (via MIDI)
In this module, demonstration of hardware and software based instruments will be examined and demonstrated. Reason will be the predominant generation tool to be used to show analog and digital synthesis methods, sampling and rhythm programming; it will be used in stand alone mode as well as a plug-in format within a host platform (either Logic, Pro Tools or Digital Performer). Additional fundamental aspects of MIDI, such as interfaces and controllers will be covered. AU Instruments will also be used, as supplied by host platform.

II. Sequencing: Writing, Arranging and Recording within the MIDI environment.
   a. Introduction to Host Sequencing Application and Reason (through Re-Wire).
   b. MIDI Tracks
   c. MIDI Recording, editing, rendering MIDI to Audio
This segment will fully explore working in a MIDI sequencing program. Multiple sound sources (hardware, software) will be utilized simultaneously. Demonstration of the flexibility of this environment, including quantization, changing sounds, instrumentation, structure, arrangement, key. Other elements include layering, creating virtual mixes, converting MIDI tracks to audio, combining live audio tracks with MIDI tracks, and mixing within the MIDI platform.

III. Advanced applications
   a. MIDI audio production for album work
   b. Scoring to picture using MIDI
   c. Using MIDI live
   d. Use of MIDI beyond audio (triggering video, for example)
Use of the MIDI platform for multiple professional applications, such as songwriting, demo and album recording and composing to picture. Importing of picture, timing, hitting markers, etc.

IV. Final Projects and Beyond.

Final Exam Period: Thursday, May 12, 2016, from 5-7PM in classroom 9A.
Emergency Procedures:Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.