

## **Sound Design: Electronic Music**

Course Outline and Syllabus

Fine Arts Department

Location - Music Computer Lab

Instructor - Mr. Caslowitz (email: caslowitzs@spprep.org) phone:201-547-6394

Materials - Logic Pro, Ozone Keyboard, Handouts, Various Websites with Music Samples and Instructional/Tutorial Videos, **Student supplied headphones.**

### **Course Description**

This class will cover fundamental concepts of music synthesis including analog audio recording, sequencing with virtual instruments, effect plug-in's and audio mixing and engineering. Using state of the art software, students will manipulate sounds into forms and arrangements of various styles and genres culminating with an original project.

### **Goals**

By the end of the semester students will be able to

- 1) Manage a recording session in Logic Pro
- 2) Manage track formats
- 3) Arrange audio and MIDI information
- 4) Use signal processing effects
- 5) Build music forms with several sound sources
- 6) Create original recordings and final mixes.
- 7) Understand microphone technology and sound reinforcement

### **Grades**

Grades will be determined by assessing completion of the topics listed below and grades will be posted on Powerschool following each assignment or project's due date.

#### *Topics*

1. Terms related to Music Synthesis and Production
2. Assignments, tutorials and projects to allow for greater understanding and to develop  
music creativity
3. Completion of an original work meeting criteria as outlined for the project.

Grades will be calculated by determining the percentage of possible points earned for each assignment. That percentage will be transformed into a letter grade at the end of each term.

It is the student's responsibility to make-up missed work due to any absences. The student is required to contact the teacher to make arrangements for appropriately adjusted deadlines.

### **Classroom Decorum**

As with any class, an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness to growth must be maintained by student and teacher alike for a student to flourish to his full potential. Should parents have a question, emails or phone calls will be returned in a timely manner.

### **In-class Assignments**

The following is a listing of assignments and projects. Details with further explanations and due dates will be given out as the semester unfolds.

- 1) **View Demos and tutorials:** Follow links on Webpage.
- 2) **MP3 or CD edits:** select a song from your own personal collection (cd's or mp3's) and import the song to Logic Pro. Then edit it the form by either shortening its length or eliminating a section or repeating small sections. Also, using signal processors add effects.
- 3) **Percussion loops:** using MIDI step record, create an original drum loop
- 4) **Overdubbing and Elastic Time:** Using live MIDI record with count-in click track, record via overdubbing and quantize an original drum loop
- 5) **Soundscape:** Create an abstract "soundscape" with at least three virtual sounds and one or more effects for each sound.
- 6) **Vocal Editing:** Record brief audio vocal track and use audio editing processors to redesign the vocals.
- 7) **Bach orchestration:** re-arrange and orchestrate a given composition by J.S. Bach.

## **Major Project**

Working with a partner as a recording engineer, create an original recording. Specific criteria will be given out in the second marking period. Possible creative initiatives may include

- a) Using a pre-composed piece of music by a classical composer and changing it or updating it with new timbres, tempos, sounds, rhythm tracks or more.
- b) Using a “number system” loosely based on “serial/tone-row music”, create an original piece of music using a ABA form.
- c) Create a contemporary pop, rock or hip-hop like recording that is based on one of your own personality traits
- d) Create a piece of music initiated by a topic in the news. Use “sound-bites” to interweave and echo throughout the beat
- e) Create piece of music based on “minimalism”
- f) Create an abstract sound-design piece of music that would ultimately be a sound track for a scene from a movie.

***Complete the “Syllabus Acknowledgment” form found in schoology by the end of the first cycle.***