

Somerville High School Music Technology

Course Syllabus: 2018-2019

Course Number 851

Course Description

This course enables students to develop music skills by using a digital music studio to create original music. This course will focus on various sources of sound, as well as the ways in which computers enable the creation of music through techniques such as recording, editing, mixing, compressing, and looping. The course also explores musical structure, ear training, analysis of musical events in a composition, maintenance of equipment, acoustical principles, historical aspects of recording, and draws connections to other educational disciplines. A study of microphone recording techniques as well as soundboard editing techniques in a digital recording studio will also be covered. The featured software is GarageBand and Audacity. Students may take this class more than once for credit.

Instructors & Contact Information

Tom Westmoreland TWestmoreland@k12.somerville.ma.us

SHS Band Website: SomervilleBand.com (includes course syllabus & materials for Music Tech)

Learning Objectives & Goals

National Standards for Music Education

- Creating
- Performing
- Responding

Somerville High School Music Technology Student

Somerville High School Music Tech Students are...

- Creative: Fearlessly approaches music with a sense of curiosity and imagination
- Communicative: Proactively & honestly communicates with & responds appropriately to others
- Committed: Displays dedication to our class through honoring one's responsibilities
- Community Oriented: Shows empathy and respect for others and works to make our class, school, and community a better place through generously sharing our talents and kindness with others

My Commitment To You

Just like I have expectations of you, you should have expectations of me. Our work will be guided by the SPS Music Department Vision Statement: “As Music Educators, it is our mission to inspire and guide every student in active music making through the use of a sequential and creative curriculum that nurtures the human spirit and promotes cultural understanding”. Also know that we are committed to your success through being...

- Prepared for our classes
- Respectful of your time - I will not waste your time with “busy work”
- Present & available to help you when you need it
- Communicative about our long term goals and daily activities
- Positive and energetic during our classes
- Honest and forthright in our communication with you
- Willing to listen to your ideas and concerns
- Committed to your success and growth

Grading

Projects (75%)

- Students will have a series of projects using Garageband and Noteflight throughout the semester that will be due on a weekly basis
- Assignments will be accepted late for up to 5 school days, but then will not be accepted for credit
- Late assignments will get a reduction of 5% for up to 1-3 days late, and then 10% for up to 4-5 days late
- If you need to access the lab to complete make up work, please communicate with Mr. Westmoreland at least 24 hours in advance to schedule a time

Class Participation (25%)

- Students should enthusiastically participate in daily activities
- Students should arrive on time to class & ready to learn

Project Calendar

Quarter 1

Dates	Topic(s)	Project
August 30	Syllabus Review	
Sept 4-7	GarageBand: Adding tracks and loops	32 bar loop composition: 3 tracks
Sept 10-14	GarageBand: Altering keys, fades & reverb	32 bar loop composition: 4 tracks with fades & reverb
Sept 17-21	GarageBand: Recording original sounds	32 bar loop/original: 4 tracks, with one original line

Dates	Topic(s)	Project
Sept 24-28	GarageBand: 12 bar blues	4 chorus blues: 4 tracks (1 instrument + bass/piano/drums) with original melody
Oct 1-5	GarageBand: Creating drum tracks	32 bar loop/original: creating your own drum track
Oct 9-12	GarageBand: Original Compositions	64+ bar original composition with original drum beats & lines for at least 3 instruments
Oct 15-19	GarageBand: Continue Original Compositions	Continued
Oct 22-26	GarageBand: Presentations of Original Compositions	Present your song to the class with title, explanation & album artwork

Quarter 2

Dates	Topic(s)	Project
Oct 29-Nov 2	GarageBand: Recording vocals	Record spoken word (chosen poem) over loops
Nov 5-9	GarageBand: Podcasting	Create 2 minute podcast about a important moment in your life
Nov 13-20*	GarageBand: Podcasting	Create 5 minute podcast about a topic of your choice
Nov 26-30	GarageBand: Remixing pre-recorded music	Remix Project: Take a song and create a 3-4 minute remix
Dec 3-7	GarageBand: Remixing pre-recorded music	Complete Remix Project & Class Presentations
Dec 10-14	Noteflight: Basic Functionality	8 bar original composition for 2 instruments
Dec 17-21	Noteflight: Arranging	16 bar arrangement for 4 instruments of
Jan 2-15	Final Project Work	<p>Final Project Options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Original Composition on GarageBand 4+ minutes 2. Podcast on GarageBand 6-8 minutes 3. Arrangement or Composition on Noteflight 4+ minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must receive written feedback from 2 people outside of Mr. W. (will turn in with project) - Written explanation of project (1 page) that shares why doing this project was important to you
Jan 18	Turn in Final Projects	Due on January 18 during exam period