

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: MTEC-214: Virtual & Software Instruments

CLASS SECTION: DX01

TERM: Winter 2025

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Distance Learning

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Thilo Schaller

EMAIL: thilo.schaller@online.camosun.ca

OFFICE: N/A

HOURS: Arranged By Appointment Online

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

In this course students learn to harness cutting-edge digital instrumentation software to simulate acoustic performance with digital sequenced music. Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) technologies and software will be explored.

PREREQUISITE(S):

All of:

- C in MTEC 212

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, a student will be able to:

1. Simulate acoustic performances of music using software instruments in such a way that a practitioner of acoustic instruments would accept the virtual performance as representative of acoustic capabilities and expression.

2. Produce moderately complex musical examples for digital performance through essential virtual and software instruments.
3. Arrange a moderately complex musical example for alternate instruments and render the example for digital performance to indicate an understanding of appropriate instrumental use in non-traditional musical settings.
4. Create and capture unique virtual and software instruments or sounds and employ a selection of these in an original digital performance.
5. Discuss the attributes of a variety of virtual and software instruments in their application to professional and academic settings.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

TEXTS: D2L contains all course texts or provides links to sites with the relevant materials.

OTHER: Computer (Mac or PC), Audio/MIDI interface, MIDI/USB keyboard controller, loudspeakers or headphones, Reaper or other DAW (software), Orchestral sample library comparable to Vienna Symphonic Library (VSL) Special Edition Volume 1 (e.g., MUSIO, EastWest Composer Cloud). The video examples use the VSL Special Edition, but concepts can be applied to other professional libraries. Please contact your instructor for recommendations or to confirm whether your chosen library meets the minimum requirements to be used in this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The schedule and course components below are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

DATES: 14 Weeks, January 6 - April 12.

CLASS LOCATION: Distance Learning, the Camosun College Desire2Learn online platform.

CLASS MEETING TIMES: Distance Learning, self-paced weekly or biweekly Modules.

This course is completely delivered online through D2L. New modules will be made available on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The modules contain text, videos, and assignments which must be completed before accessing the next module.

Deadlines: You are expected to complete each module by the specified due date and submit the assignments by the stated deadline to receive full credit. Late submissions will be accepted with a late penalty. Please try to submit all assignments on time as the assignments progress in complexity and build upon each other. If you have any questions or problems with any of the assignments, please contact your instructor as soon as possible.

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>Assignments (80%): Assignments are designed to help you learn how to work with software instruments. To pass the course, every assignment has to be submitted within the provided timeframe. This course contains 8 practical assignments. Each assignment is worth 10% of the final grade.</p> <p>Grading Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full marks (10%): submitted on time, assignment submission goes beyond the expectations described in the assignment document by displaying additional creative use of the applied techniques ○ 9%: submitted on time, assignment fulfills the expectations described in the assignment document ○ 8%: submitted on time, assignment submission fulfills some of the expectations described in the assignment document ○ 7%: submitted within two weeks after the submission deadline, assignment fulfills the expectations described in the assignment ○ 6%: submitted within two weeks after the submission deadline and fulfills some of the expectations described in the assignment document ○ 5%: submitted later than two weeks after the submission deadline and fulfills the expectations described in the assignment document ○ 0%: not submitted or failing to show that technical concepts are applied effectively 	80%
<p>Final Project (20%): The course cumulates in a final project in which you will apply the knowledge and skills you have acquired and developed throughout the course. The final project is worth 20% of the final grade.</p> <p>Grading Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Full marks (20%): submitted on time, final project submission shows creative use of software instruments as covered throughout the course to create a musically and technically convincing work ○ Marks will be subtracted for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Late submission (4% per day) ▪ Insufficient length ▪ Failing to show that technical concepts of the course have been understood and applied effectively to the creation of the final project 	20%
TOTAL	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

- A. The average amount of time spent working on materials for this course is 2 hours per week. The weekly schedule in the Course Schedule section above outlines the weekly/biweekly modules of content that are to be completed in order. For each week of the term, topics and assessment due dates are provided.
- B. To receive full credit for each of the graded assessments, you must submit them by their respective due dates and times. In the event you do not meet a submission deadline and have not been given an extension (see Part D below), I will accept your late work with a penalty. Points will be deducted as described in the evaluation section of this course syllabus. Please do your best to submit your work as soon as you have completed it, even if the deadline has passed.
- C. Missing class for holidays or illness is not a concern for this online course. You may, however, experience an illness that prevents you from meeting a submission deadline. In this case, if you wish to receive an extension, you must promptly forward documentation to the instructor from a doctor (or certified healthcare professional), preferably before the deadline passes. This documentation is required to include a clear statement from your doctor of WHAT you could not do and WHEN you could not do it (e.g., "Student was bedridden from October 5-7," or "Student will not be able to use right hand for two weeks, October 1-15"). It is not necessary to disclose the reason for your illness. Upon approval of your doctor's note, accommodations within reason will be made to help you complete missed work.

Note: **It is your responsibility to be aware of assessment deadlines and to pace your weekly progress so that you are able to meet these deadlines.**

- D. If problems or difficulties with the course materials arise, please contact the instructor immediately. Suggestions for extra help customized to your specific needs will be provided.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL: Camosun Arts and Science

DEPARTMENT: Music (Victoria Conservatory of Music)

Through its partnership with the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Camosun offers three music programs in classical and contemporary disciplines, with courses at the foundational level, in music technologies, and in music performance.

All Music Program students are registered Camosun College students entitled to receive all services – including but not limited to academic and personal support – as provided by both Camosun College and the Victoria Conservatory of Music. Music Program students are bound by all policies – including but not limited to academic, administrative, and personal conduct policies – of both Camosun College and the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its

Support Service	Website
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:
<https://camosun.ca/cal>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education.

To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.