Course Title: Music Composition and Technology

Course #: 1857-1858

Course Description:
This one-year, project-based course serves as an introduction to contemporary music creation and production through usage of music technology, fundamentals of musical theory, songwriting concepts, and performance. Students explore historical and current popular music trends, soundscapes, and various applications in society and industry. Melody, rhythm, harmony, and form are especially emphasized in generating the skills needed to create a musical work. Students will collaboratively use a variety of tools and software, along with their voice and other standard musical instrument, to apply their skills and generate projects.

UC/CSU Approval: “f” approved

Grade Level: *10, 11-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 5-7 hours per week.

Prerequisite: None
*Grade 10: Sophomores may enroll if maturity and advanced musical knowledge is demonstrated at audition/interview

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:
Previous music course experience (any ensembles or AP Music Theory) strongly encouraged.

Course Grade Scale:
- Assessments (Tests/Quizzes): 15%
- Participation and Performance: 15%
- Projects: 30%
- Written Assignments/Homework: 25%
- Final Exam: 15%

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Music Technology and Composition is a project-based course.

Throughout the first semester, students will build a portfolio of original work, including arrangements (mixes) and original compositions on GarageBand, Ableton Live and Optionally Logic or other Digital Audio Word Stations (DAWs).
During the second semester, students will focus on recording techniques and practices. Students will put this knowledge to use by assisting with the recording, pre and post production on at least one recording project (either the school student album, or the recording of a visiting artist).

In addition to projects, students will be assessed, during both terms, on vocabulary and basic function of the DAWS in the studio.