

Course code	HMP080
Name of the course	Music Production and Songwriting I (Muusikaproduksioon ja laulukirjutamine I)
Languages of instruction	Estonian/English, Estonian and English study group
Specification	for micro degree and HP specialty BA level, elective for HM specialty and others (max 22 students)
Teaching staff	Taavi-Peeter Liiv, Kelly Vask
Responsible staff member	Jose Diogo Carvalho Gomes Neves

Graded or pass/fail examinations	pass/fail	pass/fail
Semester	autumn	spring
ECTS	3.00	3.00

Total ECTS	6 ECTS
Total amount	80 academic hours

Course aims

This subject is divided in two main categories: Music Production and Songwriting.

The aim of the music production module is to introduce students to music production techniques across different genres, expand their creativity, and develop their skills in musical project management.

In Songwriting, the aim is to encourage and develop different songwriting techniques and skills, focusing on the lyrical writing as well as the melody, form, composition and structure and overall creativity.

The aim is also to have a strong connection and cooperation between these categories.

Learning outcomes

On successfully completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge in different productions skills;
- Demonstrate the ability to start and manage different projects;
- Demonstrate the ability to use modern music production tools;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of all industry standards and outputs;
- Demonstrate creativity and self-thinking;
- Develop fundamental skills and knowledge of songwriting/songcraft;
- Demonstrate the ability to write arrangements;
- Demonstrate the ability to write lyrics;
- Demonstrate knowledge of different sound processing tools and skills;
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate in a professional manner.

HMP080-1/2026

Semester content

Music Production:

- Arranging and structuring a musical piece;
- Familiarization with musical instruments and their use across different genres;
- Creative use of audio processing and effects software;
- Planning and conducting recording sessions;
- Composition;
- Recording and post-production of a musical piece;
- Analyzing and providing feedback on fellow students' work;
- Preparing an audio project for ensemble performance;
- Developing a distinctive sonic identity;
- Project management in studio work.

Songwriting:

- Creative writing;
- Lyrics;
- Writing & emotions;
- Problem Solving;
- Experimental composition;
- Compositional peer analysis;
- Melody & form fundamentals;
- Explore the fundamental elements of songcraft through a combination of analytical and practical songwriting activities;
- Strategies for overcoming writer's block and finding your unique voice as a songwriter;
- Analytical & practical songwriting;
- Songwriting production skills & techniques;
- Arrangements;
- Learn by doing.

Semester assessment methods

This course is assessed through a variety of homework, exercises, including practical exams and submission of course work, and projects.

Semester assessment criteria

The independently developed creative works have been presented to the teacher.

Semester reading material / repertoire

Cameron, J. (2020), The Artist's Way
Kachulis, J. (2005). The Songwriter's Workshop: Harmony
Kachulis, J. (2003). The Songwriter's Workshop: Melody
Kleon, A. (2022). Steal Like An Artist

Pattinson, P. (2014). Pat Pattinson's Songwriting: Essential Guide to Rhyming
Pattinson, P. (2011). Songwriting Without Boundaries
Pattinson, P. (2009). Writing Better Lyrics
Rubin, R. (2023). The Creative Act: A Way of Being
Tweedy, J. (2020). How To Write One Song
Zollo, P. (2016) More Songwriters on Songwriting
Burgess, R.J. (2014). The History of Music Production. Oxford University Press
Zager, M. (2012). Music Production: A Manual for Producers, Composers, Arrangers, and Students. Scarecrow Press
How Music Works, David Byrne, Canongate Books, 2013
Verse, Chorus, Monster, Graham Coxon, Faber & Faber, 2022
In the Studio, Rick Rubin, ECW Press, 2009
The Art of Dramatic Writing, Lajos Egri, Simon & Schuster, 2004

Podcasts:

Mixing Music / Music Production, Audio Engineering & Music Business

Tape Notes

And The Writer Is...

Live With Matt Rad

Broken Record

Authors of the course description

José Diogo Neves, Kelly Vask, Taavi-Peeter Liiv

HMP080-2/2026

Semester content

Music Production:

- Arranging and structuring a musical piece;
- Familiarization with musical instruments and their use across different genres;
- Creative use of audio processing and effects software;
- Planning and conducting recording sessions;
- Composition;
- Recording and post-production of a musical piece;
- Analyzing and providing feedback on fellow students' work;
- Preparing an audio project for ensemble performance;
- Developing a distinctive sonic identity;
- Project management in studio work.

Songwriting:

- Creative writing;
- Lyrics;
- Writing & emotions;
- Problem Solving;
- Experimental composition;
- Compositional peer analysis;
- Melody & form fundamentals;

- Explore the fundamental elements of songcraft through a combination of analytical and practical songwriting activities;
 - Strategies for overcoming writer's block and finding your unique voice as a songwriter;
 - Analytical & practical songwriting;
 - Songwriting production skills & techniques;
 - Arrangements;
 - Learn by doing;
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Semester assessment methods

This course is assessed through a variety of homework, exercises, including practical exams and submission of course work, and projects.

Semester assessment criteria

The independently developed creative works have been presented to the teacher.

Semester reading material / repertoire

Cameron, J. (2020), The Artist's Way
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Pattinson, P. (2009). Writing Better Lyrics
Rubin, R. (2023). The Creative Act: A Way of Being
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