

# Syllabus for Ableton Live (Mustek 24)

subject teacher: Alex Gunia

Ableton Live, first released in 2001 is a useful software application for Mac OS and Windows for creating sound in performing, recording and composing situations. The recent version 8 contains music sequencing, recording and programming possibilities for audio and midi, a collection of software instruments, audio and midi effect devices and a sound library. It offers the user a wide variety of use. Live is not only a good tool for Dj-ing and mixing songs, loops and playbacks live on stage and in the studio. It is also a great live-sampling and looping instrument and a nearly complete recording and mixing software. It is a sound-, instrument- and effect-source for electric and acoustic players and you find Ableton Live users in all genres of music.

During the course we will discuss basic features and explore possibilities to create individual templates for personalised and individual usage. The students will get an insight to relevant topics, which will give them the possibility to use the program in professional surroundings. There will also be a focus on the development of individual technics for sound creation. But besides covering technical aspects, the course will strongly focus on the participants musical and aesthetical development. There will be a wide stylistic variety of students, who are going to bring in their individuality and help creating strong and challenging artistic activities during the course.

A music software always contains the risk of letting it's users sound alike. Therefore the development of a strong, secure and safe personal vision of how music should sound is an important topic in this course.

Please take into consideration, that the curriculum, which you find here is the basic structure of the course, will cover all the mentioned topics, but due to the complexity of the program, we will have to react to the actual workflow of the class during the semester.

**Assignments and the final exam:** There will be an assignment for several lessons referring to the current topics. There will also be a final exam in form of a concert at the auditorium, which concrete form will be substantiated during the course. It is also required to hand in a fully filled out questionnaire.

## Equipment:

It is necessary to have unlimited access to the following equipment in order to participate in Mustek 24. It is also essential, that you have installed all necessary drivers (latest versions), have read all manuals and read me! documents

- a computer with a installed and running version of Ableton Live 8 Suite, latest version 8.1.5 (August 2010). Please refer to manual for installation.
- Max for Live (latest version)
- a midi controller with a playable keyboard and at least eight faders/poties and pads (all drivers must be installed on your computer)
- a professional soundcard with at least four analog channels In/out, headphone out (all drivers must be installed on your computer)
- a midi interface (if it is not included in the soundcard)
- a professional headset like Beyerdynamic DT770 or Sennheiser HD25
- a professional microphone
- necessary adapters, cables etc.

If there occur any problems or questions concerning the courses, the necessary equipment etc., please feel free to contact me personally or via email: [alex@alexgunia.com](mailto:alex@alexgunia.com)  
phone 94 24 71 72.

see for reference:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ableton>

[www.ableton.com](http://www.ableton.com)

[maxforlive.com](http://maxforlive.com)

[cycling74.com](http://cycling74.com)

**Time:** wednesdays 16:00-17:30, also two concerts with varying teaching hours.

Passing the course will give the students five study-points. The academic year has 40 weeks with 37,5 clock hours each, that makes 1500 clock hours all together. The five study-points stand for 125 clockhours. Minus 16,5 clock hours (22 school hours) for the actual class leaves 108,5 clock hours of homework to the students. If these hours are dispersed to the actual 12 teaching weeks, it leaves circa nine hours of homework per week. In this timeframe the students should be able to finish all necessary assignments and pass the courses successfully.

**lesson 1 - basics 1 // 01.09.10**

- introduction, concept of the course and time plan
- the concept of Live (*read manual chapters 2 and 4*)
- the info view and Live lessons
- preferences
- the transport control bar
- importing audio files from the library and playing
- the session view (*read manual chapter 7*)
- *shortcuts (start reading manual chapter 33)*

**assignment: review, shortcuts, performing with pre-recorded loops (from library)+++++++**

**lesson 2 - basics 2 // 08.09.10**

- audio recording (*read relevant parts of manual chapter 15*)
- the clip view (*read manual chapter 8*)
- wrapping pt.1 (*read manual chapter 9*)
- the mixer (*read manual chapter 14*)
- the template song
- key mapping // midi mapping
- the browser (*read manual chapters 2.3 / 4.1 / 16.2.*)
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

**assignment: review, shortcuts, record audio material and perform with it in combination with pre-recorded audio material+++++++**

**lesson 3 - basics 3 // 22.09.10**

- midi recording, programming, editing (*read manual chapters 10, 15*)
- midi file importing/exporting (*read manual chapter 5.3*)
- applying grooves (*read manual chapter 11*)
- clip envelopes (*read manual chapter 19*)
- routing (*read manual chapter 13*)
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

**assignment: review, shortcuts, programming of ten loops of at least eight bars lengths+++++++**

**lesson 4 - basics 4 // 29.09.10**

- presentation of assignment from 22.09.10 on a cd, dvd, memory stick or as a download
- the arrangement view, automation, envelopes (*read manual chapters 6 / 18 / 19*)
- the library (*read manual chapter 5.7. and 5.8.*)
- managing songs, files, sets (*read manual rest of chapter 5*)
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

**assignment: review, shortcuts, template song (with organized library), do a performance in session view and record/mix it in arrangement view+++++++**

**lesson 5 – performing lab 1 // 06.10.10**

- presentation of assignment from 29.09.10 on a cd, dvd, memory stick or as a download
- performing live and solo in class
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

assignment: review first four lessons (read manual chapter four again), shortcuts, create sounds and loops by using the Live devices (instruments/effects)+++++

**lesson 6 – special topic 1 // 13.10.10**

- presentation of assignment of 06.10.10 on a cd, dvd, memory stick or as a download
- audio effects beat repeater, looper, grain delay etc. (*read manual chapter 21*)
- Midi effects (*read manual chapter 22*)
- software instruments 1 (*read manual chapter 23 part 1*)
- software instruments 2 (*read manual chapters 23 part 2 / 16*)
- simplr (*read manual chapter 23.12*)
- impulse (*read manual chapter 23.6*)
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

assignment: review, shortcuts, create more sounds and loops with the devices (instruments/effects)+++++

**lesson 7 – performing lab 2 concert // 20.10.10**

- presentation of assignment from 13.10.10 on a cd, dvd, memory stick or as a download
- *shortcuts (continue reading manual chapter 33)*

assignment: review, shortcuts, design a useful template for Live sampling+++++

**lesson 8 – special topic 2 Max for Live // 03.11.10**

- MaxForLive
- sync several computers (*read manual chapter 29*)
- *shortcuts (read manual chapter 33)*

assignment: review, shortcuts, keep working on your templates, final project concept+++++

**lesson 09 - performing lab 4 concert / recording // 10.11.10**

- the concert (soundcheck at 4:00 pm, concert start at 7:00 pm, ends at 10:00 pm)

assignment: review, shortcuts, fill out the questionnaire+++++

**lesson 10 – evaluating of the concert from the 10.11.10 // 17.11.10**

- hand in questionnaire
- evaluating the final concert ++++++

**lesson 11 time to say good-bye - 24.11.10**

- follow action (*read manual chapter 12.6*)
- final discussion
- feedback for students and teacher
- do we know all the shortcuts by now? ☺ ++++++

**\*\*\***

These manual chapters of the manual contain interesting facts, which are very valuable for users to know: **resources** (*read manual chapter 30*), **audio facts** (*read manual chapter 31*), **midi facts** (*read manual chapter 32*)

The right use of **shortcuts** (in combination with individually assigned key commands) has a tremendous effect on the efficiency on the users workflows. I recommend strongly to learn all relevant shortcuts in your individualised work scenarios. (see manual chapter 33 shortcuts)