



6 WEEK MODERN MUSIC PRODUCTION COURSE
> COURSE CURRICULUM

Updated: July 2022

About the course

This course is designed to upskill music producers and artists so that they are able to produce at a professional level and be equipped with the knowledge and skills to be professional, full-time music producers.

The course has been designed with flexibility in mind. Most of the content will be taught via online live Zoom classes with music producer tutor Aubrey Whitfield. The classes will be in a seminar format and students will be able to interact and ask questions during these classes.

Live Classes

Each class module will take place on a Saturday at 17:00 GMT / 09:00 (PDT) /12:00 (EDT) for 6 weeks starting from 3 September. If you're unsure of what time the classes will start in your timezone, convert your timezone here:

<https://dateful.com/time-zone-converter>

Because it's not possible to time the live classes to suit every time zone in the world, it is still possible for students in Australia and similar time zones to join the course and receive the same level of support as each student will receive a recorded version of the live Zoom classes the next day via email. This also applies to anyone who can't make one or more of the scheduled classes. You don't have to attend the live classes as you will receive the recorded version within 24 hours. You can then view the recording at your own leisure and ask Aubrey any questions afterwards. This means that the course can be as flexible as you want it.

Each class will vary in length depending on the content. For example, the 'creative modern producing' and 'mixing' modules are more in-depth and therefore require a 2 hour class to ensure everything is covered. You can take a look at the details of each module in this curriculum which will detail how long each class will be. However, the classes won't be any longer than 2 hours and no shorter than 1 hour.

Although the course takes place just one day per week, during the week you will be sent a range of differing course materials that are relevant to the module you are studying for that week. For example, you will receive a compression guide and an EQ guide just after the 'mixing' module to consolidate what you learnt during the class. You can view these materials at your own leisure and will be downloadable.

Homework Assignment

After Module 5 /week 5, you will be given a homework assignment to produce a song from scratch (in any style of your choice) incorporating all of the producing, mixing and mastering skills you have learned throughout the course. Aubrey will then listen to your track and provide some constructive feedback which you can then use to consolidate your learning further. This homework assignment is optional. So if you are too busy to create a new track, then you can opt out of it. However, it is a good opportunity to receive valuable feedback and to really hone the skills you've learned over the 6 weeks. Nearer the time, Aubrey will send you a brief to produce your track to, and will provide a deadline date (likely to be within 10 days).

Course certificate

The course is certified, meaning that all students will receive a certificate at the end of the course. The certificate will verify that you have attended a course on modern music producing, mixing and mastering. The certificate will be presented by Echodrop Records. You will receive a digital copy of your certificate which you will be able to print off.

Who is this course for?

The course is aimed at producers and self-producing artists who have at least a basic understanding of producing and want to take their skills to a professional level. This course is therefore suitable for beginners but also producers who need to polish their skills.

If there is anything during the class that you didn't understand, you can reach out to Aubrey after the class who will help support you and provide further learning and clarification if needed.

Format

The course classes will be delivered in a seminar format with Aubrey explaining and demonstrating various approaches, skills and techniques. There will also be occasions where Aubrey will share her computer screen with the students and she will demonstrate particular techniques using music software (for example, using a compressor, reverb, EQ, automation etc).

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Some of the techniques will be demonstrated in Logic Pro X. However, if you don't use Logic Pro, for example, you use FL Studio, Pro Tools, Cubase, Ableton etc the techniques you are being taught can still be applied to other DAWs.

There are 6 modules, designed to upskill you to a professional level. See the breakdown of each module on the next page.

MODULE 1: An introduction to modern music production

Class Schedule: Saturday 3 September at 17:00 GMT (1 hour)

What to Expect:

This is where it all starts! During this introductory class you will be given a course overview by Aubrey with a look at the course curriculum and objectives.

Then, you will learn about the modern music landscape:

- Current music trends
- The modern music industry and how it works
- The role of a music producer in the modern industry
- Key skills of a music producer and how to hone them
- Life as full time producer - what to expect

Additional Materials: *After the Zoom class you will sent:*

- The course curriculum

MODULE 2: Audio Engineering

Class Schedule: Saturday 10 September at 17:00 GMT (1.30 hours)

What to Expect:

During this week you will learn all about modern recording approaches and techniques to ensure that you are able to capture a brilliant recording in your studio, whether that be a bedroom studio or a professional studio. During this module, you will learn:

- Recording techniques: general microphone placement and set-up
- The different types of microphones and how to use them effectively
- Pre-amps: what they are and how to use them
- Recording vocals in the studio and how to get a good vocal recording at source
- Recording acoustic and electric guitars using microphones and amps
- Recording gear set-up: what is needed to get a good recording at source
- Studio environment: including studio layout, ambience and layout
- Soundproofing: how to ensure your recording space is adequate soundproofed prior to recording

Additional Materials: *After the Zoom class you will sent:*

- A desktop guide on good recording practices for vocals and guitars
- A recommended microphone list
- A recommended pre-amp list

MODULE 3: Modern Creative Producing

Class Schedule: Saturday 17 September at 17:00 GMT (2 hours)

What to Expect:

Being a good music producer is much more than arranging a song. This week, you will focus on bringing your song arrangements to life by learning both modern and creative production techniques. This will include:

- Modern song arrangements
- Drum programming
- Sampling
- Use of loops
- Automation and creative effects
- Use of 'ear candy'
- The 3 instrument rule
- Song structuring

Additional Materials: After the Zoom class you will sent:

1. A desktop guide on modern song arrangements
2. A selection of samples and loops from Aubrey's own library

MODULE 4: Mixing

Class Schedule: Saturday 24 September at 17:00 GMT (2 hours)

What to Expect:

Mixing is a crucial part of music production. Nearly all producers are expected to mix songs as well produce them. It can be technically and creatively challenging to learn mixing to its full potential, so it's important to understand the basics and the foundations of the most important mixing techniques. During this week's module you will learn:

- Preparing your mixing environment for optimal mixes (studio monitor choice, placement, soundproofing and headphones)
- How to develop your own mixing approach in your DAW of choice
- How to start a mix
- How to use mix dynamics (compression)
- How to use EQ and separation/blending techniques in the mix
- Creative use of reverbs and delays for mix space and depth
- Mixing vocals: techniques for a modern sounding vocal
- Plugins and what order to place them on your channel inserts
- Use of aux/bus channels for more controlled mixing
- Proper use of Gain Staging to avoid clipping and running out of headroom

Additional Materials: After the Zoom class you will sent:

1. A desktop guide on suggested compression settings (for vocals, drums, bass, guitars)
2. A desktop guide on suggested EQ settings (for vocals, drums, bass, guitars)
3. A desktop guide on reverbs: the types of reverbs and what are their best uses
4. A guide on how to properly set-up your studio environment for optimal mixing
5. A list of recommended studio monitors and headphones from the budget range to the more expensive range

MODULE 5: Mastering

Class Schedule: Saturday 1 October at 17:00 GMT (1 hour)

What to Expect:

Mastering is the final stage of the production process where the stereo file of your mix is prepared ready for release. Understanding at least basic mastering is important for any producer. This module will explore the approaches and tools needed to master your own tracks for release. During this module you will learn:

- How to use limiting
- How to use stereo imaging for depth
- Ensuring appropriate loudness for your mixes
- Meeting the requirements for streaming services such as Spotify
- Using a multimeter to ensure a good balance across the frequency spectrum
- Master printing for your clients

Additional Materials: After the Zoom class you will sent:

1. A desktop guide on basic mastering
2. A homework brief from Aubrey (see 'Homework Task')

Homework Task:

Produce, mix and master a brand new song using the techniques you have learned during the course so far.. Aubrey will supply you with a brief to follow which will detail what techniques you should include in your homework song. The brief will also give you a deadline for submitting your homework song (likely to be 10 days).. Aubrey will supply you with a brief on the day of this Zoom module with more information.

MODULE 6: Career Development

Class Schedule: Saturday 8 October at 17:00 GMT (1 hour)

What to Expect:

Now you have the skills needed to produce, mix and master your tracks to professional standards, you now need to learn how to build your music career by getting paid work and opportunities. During this module we will round off the course by exploring:

- Branding
- Using social media to your advantage
- Using marketplace sites for paid work
- Building a virtual team around you
- Finding clients to produce
- Appropriate fees to charge for your services
- Copyright and royalties: understand your rights, as well as the rights of the artists and labels
- How to conduct yourself professionally

Additional Materials: After the Zoom class you will sent:

1. A guide detailing recommended marketplace sites to get paid work
2. A guide on finding clients to produce
3. A recommended pricing guide
4. A guide to copyright and royalties

For any questions about the course or the curriculum please send an email to aubrey@aubreywhitfield.com with the subject ' Course question'