



**Center of Excellence Media Arts & Technology
Audio Recording Technology**

MUSC 1327 ♦ Audio I

CRN 79235 - Fall 2015

Spring Branch Campus - Room 418 | 6:00 - 8:00 pm | Tues/Thur
2 Hour Lecture / 4 Hour Lab / 96 hours per semester/ 16 weeks

Instructor: Aaron Faina

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Learning Web Page: <http://learning.hccs.edu/faculty/aaron.faina@hccs.edu>

Office location and hours

Please feel free to contact me concerning any problems that you are experiencing in this course. You do not need to wait until you have received a poor grade before asking for my assistance. Your performance in my class is very important to me. I am available to hear your concerns and to just discuss course topics. Feel free to meet with me during these hours or by appointment. Tues 8:00-9:00 PM

Course Description

This course covers the techniques of sound production including recording, mixing and editing with digital audio software. Hands-On applications to be covered include: DAWs, session procedures, signal flow, patch bay, mixer operation, and effects processing.

Prerequisites

MUSC-1235 or MUSC-1335

Course Goal

Audio engineering students will become proficient in the operation of a modern professional production studio and will complete musical recording projects.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1. Demonstrate signal flow in the recording studio.**
 - a. Demonstrate basic patch bay operation in a recording studio.
 - b. Demonstrate signal routing techniques in the recording studio.
- 2. Explain microphone characteristics and placement.**

- a. Describe basic categories of microphone design, such as moving coil, ribbon, and condenser, and their properties.
 - b. Discuss the uses of standard close and distant miking techniques used in audio production.
 - c. Identify the function of various microphone related accessories such as pop filters, lo-cut filters, phantom power, and polar pattern selectors.
- 3. Demonstrate studio setup and signal routing.**
- a. Demonstrate how to connect various pieces of audio equipment including microphones, A/D converters, mixers, and speakers.
 - b. Demonstrate basic time, frequency, and amplitude domain signal routing and processing.
 - c. Identify the basic features of common signal processors such as compressors, reverbs, equalizers, and delays.
- 4. Identify basic studio recording procedures.**
- a. Utilize effective file management strategies for an audio engineering project.
 - b. Describe the proper use and setup of a click track.
 - c. Identify common studio documents such as take sheets, track sheets, and session logs.
- 5. Employ DAWs (Digital Audio Workstations) to complete basic audio engineering tasks such as recording, editing, processing, and mixing.**
- a. Understand the basic operation of the Apple/Mac operating system including navigation, file management, search engine, and use of Internet resources.
 - b. Describe the differences between linear and nonlinear, and real-time and non-real time processing.
 - c. Demonstrate basic editing processes such as cutting, pasting, cross-fading, and arranging of audio files.
- 6. Evaluate various aspects of musical productions including genre, production quality, spatial positioning, frequency, and dynamics.**
- a. Describe typical musical qualities of various popular musical genres.
 - b. Analyze music productions for harmonic and dynamic relationship between various elements of a mix.

SCANS or Core Curriculum Statement and Other Standards

Credit: 3 (3 lecture)

The Department of Labor has identified skill sets that U.S. employers want most in entry level employees. Houston Community College is determined to prepare you with the knowledge and skill you need to success in today's dynamic work environment.

Towards this end, the following workplace competencies and foundation skills have been designed into this courses curriculum.

- Listening
- Self-esteem

Students will listen to recordings of equalizers, compressors, gates and reverberators to identify their settings by ear. Students will prepare a portfolio CD of their recordings to

play for potential clients and employers. Their success will be determined by the performance on quizzes, tests and the quality of their portfolio.

16 WEEK CALENDAR

Week 1

- 1) Introduction to class
- 2) Pro Tools Basics

Week 2

- 1) Reinforce Pro Tools and Signal Processing

Week 3

- 1) Introduction to the analog recording studio
- 2) Basic mixing console signal flow for tracking

Week 4

- 1) Console block diagram

Week 5

- 1) Microphones and reinforce signal flow.

Week 6

- 1) Reinforce console signal flow with some practice
- 2) Go over patch bays in class

Week 7

- 1) Discuss integration of electronic elements with live instruments
- 2) Introduce MIDI in ProTools

Week 8

- 1) Review for Mid-term
- 2) Midterm exam

Week 9

- 1) Go over midterm
- 2) Pitch manipulation

Week 10

- 1) Review basic tracks
- 2) Reinforce time manipulation info

Week 11

- 1) Teach video in ProTools

Week 12

1) Instructor defined time for working on in-class group recording

Week 13

1) In-class recording project

Week14

1) Start mixing in-class project

Week 15

1) Review for Final

Week 16

Final Exam

Instructional Methods

The class will be comprised of a variety of instructional methods including lectures, class discussions, and hands-on demonstrations.

As a student wanting to learn about the field of audio recording, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments in a timely fashion, study for exams, participate in classroom activities, and attend class.

As an instructor, I want my students to be successful. I feel that it is my responsibility to provide you with knowledge concerning the field of education, modeling good teaching strategies, and organizing and monitoring the field experience that allows you to connect the information that you learn in this course to the real world of education.

As a student wanting to learn about the field of education, it is your responsibility to read the textbook, submit assignments on the due dates, study for the exams, participate in classroom activities, attend class, and enjoy yourself while experiencing the real world of education.

As I believe that engaging the students in the learning is essential for teaching to be effective, you will spend the majority of class time involved in collaborative activities. You will be involved in discussions with your classmates and your instructor. As you will want to contribute to these discussions, you will need to come to class prepared to discuss, analyze and evaluate information from your text and other assigned readings.

Student Assignments

Students will be required to complete the following assignments during the semester:

Quizzes:

Quizzes will be comprised of 10-15 multiple choice, true/false questions or short answers drawn from the readings and lectures for the week. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

Lab Assignments:

There will be six lab assignments this semester. The requirements and due dates for each will be discussed in class. Lab assignments will be completed outside of class time utilizing the labs in room 418. Late assignments will be accepted, but a penalty of one letter grade per class day late will be assessed.

Midterm Exam:

A Scantron is required for the midterm exam, which will be comprised of 100 multiple-choice and true/false questions. All questions will be drawn from the required readings and in-class lecture content. Any exams not completed on a scantron with a pencil will not be graded.

Final Exam:

The final exam will contain a written portion to be completed on scantron as well as a hands-on component. The written portion will be comprised of multiple-choice and True/False questions drawn from the required readings and in-class lecture content. The hands-on portion will be completed on the computer workstations. The final exam will be comprehensive, drawing from material covered over the entire semester. Any written exam components not completed on a scantron with a pencil will not be graded.

Make-up policy

- Quizzes cannot be made-up. Instead, the lowest two quiz scores will be dropped at the end of the semester.
- Late assignments will be deducted one letter grade per class period until the assignment is turned in.
- Make-ups for exams are not typically given. If you know you will be absent for an exam day please discuss an alternate testing time with the instructor ahead of time, not after the fact.
- 'Incomplete' final grades are only appropriate if unusual circumstances cause a student to miss one or two major assignments or tests. An 'Incomplete' may only be given if the student and the instructor discuss and agree to this option. The student is responsible for obtaining and finishing the missing work by the next regular semester.

Instructor Requirements

As your Instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Provide the grading scale and detailed grading formula explaining how student grades are to be derived
- Facilitate an effective learning environment through class activities, discussions, and lectures
- Description of any special projects or assignments
- Inform students of policies such as attendance, withdrawal, tardiness and make up
- Provide the course outline and class calendar which will include a description of any special projects or assignments
- Arrange to meet with individual students before and after class as required

To be successful in this class, it is the student’s responsibility to:

- Attend class and participate in class discussions and activities
- Read and comprehend the textbook
- Complete the required assignments and exams
- Ask for help when there is a question or problem
- Keep copies of all paperwork, including this syllabus, handouts and all assignments
- Complete the field study with a 70% passing score

Program/Discipline Requirements

None for this course.

HCC Grading Scale

A = 100 – 90;	4 points per semester hour
B = 89 – 80:	3 points per semester hour
C = 79 – 70:	2 points per semester hour
D = 69 – 60:	1 point per semester hour
59 and below = F	0 points per semester hour
IP (In Progress)	0 points per semester hour
W(Withdrawn)	0 points per semester hour
I (Incomplete)	0 points per semester hour
AUD (Audit)	0 points per semester hour

IP (In Progress) is given only in certain developmental courses. The student must re-enroll to receive credit. COM (Completed) is given in non-credit and continuing education courses. To compute grade point average (GPA), divide the total grade points by the total number of semester hours attempted. The grades “IP,” “COM” and “I” do not affect GPA.

Grading Criteria

Your instructor will conduct quizzes, exams, and assessments that you can use to determine how successful you are at achieving the course learning outcomes (mastery of course content and skills) outlined in the syllabus. If you find you are not mastering the material and skills, you are encouraged to reflect on how you study and prepare for each class. Your instructor welcomes a dialogue on what you discover and may be able to assist you in finding resources on campus that will improve your performance.

Grading Percentages

Attendance	10%
Quizzes	10%
Lab Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	15%
Final Exam	20%
Group Recording Project	20%

Instructional Materials

TEXT: David Miles Huber – Modern Recording Techniques 8th edition

1. 2 USB Flash drives of at least 4GB capacity
2. External Firewire-based hard drive
3. Personal Pair of headphones with 1/8”to 1/4”adapter.

HCC Policy Statements

Students with Disabilities – ADA

Any student with a documented disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact the Disability Services Office at the respective college at the beginning of each semester. Faculty is authorized to provide only the accommodations requested by the Disability Support Services Office.

Access Student Services Policies in the Student Handbook on their Web site:

<http://www.hccs.edu/district/students/student-°©-handbook/>

- Attendance Policy: Page 3
 - Academic or Scholastic Dishonesty: Page 18
 - Repeating Courses (3-peaters): Page 5
 - Withdrawal Deadline: Page 4
 - ADA or Equal Education Opportunity: Page 16
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