

Music 218.2: Intro to Audio Recording Spring 2015

Craig Underwood

Mondays and Wednesdays: 10:20am-11:10am, Room 222

Office Hours (Memorial Hall, Room 101):

By appointment M-F 8am-4:30pm

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I. Course Description

This course introduces students to the basic principles of audio recording, with an emphasis on techniques for non-studio performances. Topics will include session planning and documentation, critical listening, microphone selection and placement, analog and digital signals, signal flow, and the standard recording process (tracking, mixing, and mastering).

II. Goals of Course

By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- plan a recording of a student recital or ensemble performance
- properly setup and operate professional audio recording equipment
- distinguish between various microphone types and their intended purpose
- perform basic editing and mixing tasks in AVID Pro Tools software
- document proper signal flow in an audio recording system

III. Instructional Materials

- Required Textbook: Hill, Barry R. Learning Recording Engineering: Fundamental Concepts and Operations. 2010.
Purchase direct from author: [Learning Recording Engineering](#)
- Additional course content will be added to Blackboard on a regular basis.
- Strongly recommended: purchase an accurate set of *studio monitoring* headphones such as AKG K240, Shure SRH440 or Grado Labs SR80e for critical listening outside of class.

IV. Teaching Strategies

The course will be conducted with a series of demonstrations, lectures (recorded and in-class), class exercises, and discussions. Hands-on work will be emphasized.

V. Course Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. For each unexcused absence, your overall grade for the class will be lowered by .25 (using a 4.0 scale). Excused absences include illness (doctor's note required) and family funeral (note from home or Student Services required). All absences will be evaluated at the discretion of the instructor. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated, and will be reflected in the overall grade. Assignments must be turned in on the day they are due in order to receive a letter grade. Assignments not turned in by that time will receive a "zero".

The instructor reserves the right to make qualitative judgments in determining grades for an assignment or for the course.

VI. Homework, Projects and Exams

Projects (40%): Students will plan, engineer, and deliver at least two finished recordings of Moravian College Music Department student recitals, ensembles, and/or other performances on campus.

Homework (30%): Assignments will include textbook readings; critical listening and commenting on professional recordings, student recordings, and textbook samples; digital audio workstation tasks.

Exams/Quizzes (30%): Quizzes and exams will be scheduled upon completion of major course units. Quizzes or exams may be task-based or written.

The above percentages are estimates, and subject to change based on class progress.

VII. Academic Honesty

Students are expected to uphold the standards of academic honesty, as they are spelled out in the Student Handbook.

VIII. Workload

Students can expect to work three or more hours per week outside of class on projects, readings, and other assignments for this class. Student success is highly dependent on individual initiative outside the classroom. Experimenting with audio recording gear outside of scheduled class time is an absolute necessity. The student work in this course is in full compliance with the federal definition of a two credit hour course.

IX. Accommodations

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability must contact Ms. Elaine Mara, Assistant Director of Academic & Disability Support, at the lower level of Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the Academic Support Center.

X. Calendar

Please note that the syllabus and calendar of class assignments are subject to change.