

## **Music 218.2: Intro to Audio Recording Spring 2016**

Craig Underwood

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:50am-8:40am, Room 121

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. Topics will include fundamentals of sound, critical listening, microphone selection and placement, dB types and usage, analog and digital signals, signal flow, and the standard recording process (tracking, mixing, and mastering), and session planning and documentation.

### **II. Goals of Course**

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

- properly setup and operate professional audio recording equipment
- document signal flow in an audio recording system
- distinguish between various microphone types and techniques
- recognize basic acoustical considerations for recording
- perform basic recording, editing, and mixing tasks in AVID Pro Tools software
- plan the recording of a student recital or ensemble performance

### **III. Instructional Materials**

- Required Textbook: Hill, Barry R. Learning Recording Engineering: Fundamental Concepts and Operations. 2010.
- Additional course content will be added to Canvas on a regular basis.
- AVID Pro Tools First software (free): <http://apps.avid.com/ProToolsFirst>
- Strongly recommended: purchase an accurate set of *studio monitoring* headphones such as Sony MDR-7506, AKG K240, or Shure SRH440 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 (30%): 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.

Attendance (10%).

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 the assistant director of learning services for disability support for further assistance and information.. 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.