

MUSI 4325-001
Class Number 84048
TTh 11:00 am – 12:20 pm
Studio: FA 301

**RECORDING
TECHNIQUES II**
Fall 2014 Syllabus

Professor Micah Hayes
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Prerequisite: Digital Music Technology (MUSI 3394) and Recording Techniques I (MUSI 4390)

Description: Students will learn to engineer rock/pop recordings in a recording studio setting. Students will also study audio theory, including but not limited to pop recording techniques, psychoacoustics, corrective audio processing, signal processing, studio business, analog circuitry, metering, and mastering. Analyzing the quality of both professional and student recordings will also be an important component of the course, as will timbral ear training.

Office Hours: Wednesdays from 3pm-4pm and Thursdays from 1:00pm-1:45pm. I am available at other times by appointment (contact me via email). I will be either in FA 306 or 301—please check both.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken regularly throughout the semester. At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy:

Any more than four unexcused absences will bring down your grade by 5%. For example, five absences will cause a 94% to become an 89%, six will cause a 94% to become an 84%, etc. Also, being tardy twice equals one absence. In order for an absence to be excused, the instructor must receive some sort of signed document in writing—e.g. a doctor's note excusing an illness, a letter from a pastor/priest/rabbi or family member excusing absence due to a death in the family, etc.

Required Materials: *Handbook of Recording Engineering* by Eargle, John (0387284702), Second Printing Edition (Paperback - 2005); Springer—required. *Modern Recording Techniques* by Huber, David Miles and Runstein, Robert (0240806255), Seventh Edition (Paperback - 2005); Focal Press—required. Students will also be given copies of Geoff Martin's pdf/on-line book *Introduction to Sound Recording* (2004 edition); (<http://www.tonmeister.ca/main/textbook/index.html>). *Mixing Engineer's Handbook* by Owsinski, Bobby (978-1285420875); ArtistPro; Third Edition (Paperback - 2013)—required. *Perfecting Sound Forever* by Milner, Greg (0571211658); Faber and Faber; First Edition (Paperback - 2009)—required.

You will also be **required** to subscribe to an account at **Lynda.com**. This is a video tutorial training site that will help supplement the material we cover in class. Students are **required** to subscribe the first week of class and will be monitored by me throughout the semester. The approximate cost (after the student discount) is about \$36.

Assignments: Students will regularly be given reading assignments from the four texts mentioned above and will be will be quizzed on the material. In-class Listening Sheets will be collected at the end of the semester. Students will also be assigned various projects to record in the studio (FA 301). Quizzes on lecture material will be administered randomly, and both midterm and final exams will be given. Students will also conduct timbral ear training, using frequency-based training from CDs and software, as well as critical listening of student and professional recordings.

Grading:	Engineered recordings/projects	40%
	Midterm/Final exams	35%
	Lynda.com viewing	10%
	Timbral ear training	05%
	Quizzes and other assignments	05%
	Professionalism (see addendum)	05%

Grading Scale: A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: 0-59%.

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

Out-of-Class Expectations: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course are expected to spend between 3-9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities.

Makeup Policy: Late assignments *are not* accepted. If you have extenuating circumstances you must talk to me first and I must approve of a change *in writing*. You will not be allowed to makeup an exam unless you arrange an alternative solution *in writing* with me before the exam.

Student Learning Outcomes: After successfully completing this course, students will:

- Be able to engineer recordings in the pop music genre in a studio setting
- Have a solid understanding of audio theory, including but not limited to pop recording techniques, psychoacoustics, corrective audio techniques, signal processing, studio business, analog circuitry, metering, and mastering
- Be able to analyze the quality of both professional and student recordings

Studio Security (301): After entering the room by swiping your ID and entering your pin, *immediately* punch in the alarm code—any sort of beeping should cease at that point. When exiting, please *punch in the same code before exiting*. If something goes wrong and you cannot cancel the alarm, please call the campus police department at (817) 272-3381. As the months go by, there will be more and more expensive gear in the studio, so *please* do not give the security code to anyone outside the class. Your maturity and good conduct will keep this program alive. Also, please leave the studio cleaner than you found it.

Communication: I will communicate important information with you via email using the email address you have set up in the MyMav system. You will be held responsible for the information

sent there, so ensure you check this email address DAILY. If you need assistance with MyMav, you may contact the Office of Information Technology (<http://oit.uta.edu>).

Important Links:

www.aes.org – Audio Engineering Society homepage

www.gearsllutz.com – An online forum with all sorts of great information on all kinds of gear

www.tonmeister.ca – The website of Geoff Martin which includes *Introduction to Sound Recording*

Approximate Course Schedule: As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course.

Week 0.5: Class Introduction and Psychoacoustics I

Week 1: Psychoacoustics II and Golden Ears

Week 2: Class Listening Assignment / Mixing and Metering (Assign Mix Project)

Week 3: Corrective Audio Processing / Hands on Mixing and Corrective Processing

Week 4: Signal Processing / Hands on Signal Processing

Week 5: Audio Data Compression / Hands on Audio Data Compression

Week 6: Student Listening Presentation I / work on student mixes

Week 7: Student Mixes Due (Assign Final Project) / Listen and discuss Student Mixes / AES?

Week 8: Midterm / Project Proposal Due and Student Presentations II

Week 9: Pop Music Engineering / Hands on Pop Engineering (record students in class)

Week 10: Golden Ears Quiz and listening / Student Presentations III

Week 11: Studio Budgets and Roles

Week 12: Mastering / Mastering Demonstration

Week 13: Golden Ears Quiz 2; Student Listening Presentation IV / Guest Speaker

Week 14: Noise Reduction and Time Code / Thanksgiving

Week 15: Final Project Due / Listen and Discuss Student Projects

Week 16: Final Exam

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "**reasonable accommodation**" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with **informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: At UT Arlington, academic dishonesty is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any form. All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code: *I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.* Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES AVAILABLE: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

DROP POLICY: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center.

Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox DAILY. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

FINAL REVIEW WEEK: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabus. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

TITLE IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located near FA 302. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.