MUT 205-001 and MUT 205-002 - Microphone Techniques

Syllabus
Fall 2019

Instructor: Nicholas Lambson
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(email and MS Teams preferred)

Course times: Section 1: TR 1:00 – 1:50
Section 2: TR 2:00 – 2:50

Office Phone: (936) 468-4534
Office: Fine Arts Annex 106
Office Hours: TBA and by appointment

Class Location: Griffith 310

Credits: Two

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the art and science of utilizing microphones to properly capture the sound of different instruments and voices. Topics to be covered include the basics of how microphones work, the different types of microphones used in the recording studio as well as various microphone placement techniques. Additionally, student will gain hands-on experience, learn microphone care, maintenance and selection, and engage in several recording projects to further cement their understanding of the course material.

Co-requisite: Introduction to Audio Technology (MUT 210).

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to understand and articulate microphone terminology.
2. Students will learn the advanced microphone function and implementation.
3. Students will complete two recording projects that demonstrate their ability to apply learned conceptual topics.
4. Students will learn microphone selection parameters.
5. Students will learn techniques for each microphone type.
6. Students will be prepared for more advanced studies in music technology and recording arts.

Program Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate experience and expertise in music technology hardware and software for live sound reinforcement, recording, editing, mixing, producing, MIDI sequencing, and notation.
2. Students will demonstrate broad knowledge of the music industry.
3. Students will have developed and honed their skills as musicians and recording artists.
4. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of various studio and live sound equipment operations.
5. Students will be prepared to pursue careers in the music industry and/or graduate studies in music and sound technology.

Required Text and Materials:

2. Headphones with ¼ and ⅛” adapters.
3. Portable data storage device with at least 4GB of free space.
4. Access online resources including MS Office applications and Turnitin.
5. Students must have some form of hearing protection. Foam plugs are not ideal. Either Etymotics or full “Musician's” custom-molded ear plugs are highly recommended.

Course Requirements:

1. **Recording Projects:** Students will complete two recording projects, which may be presented in class.
2. **Homework:** Assignments will vary in scope and by type, including listening and reading assignments.
3. **Quizzes:** Several quizzes will take place in class, which will allow students to demonstrate their comprehension of the material as the semester progresses, and will also prepare them for larger examinations and projects.
4. **Mid-Term Written Exam:** Students will be tested on terminology and concepts covered in class and in the text.
5. **Final Written Exam:** This exam is similar to the Mid-Term in format. This exam is cumulative.
6. **Final Project:** A large creative project demonstrating as many skills acquired from the course as possible, which will be presented in class.
7. **Participation:** Your attendance and participation are crucial to achieving success in this course. Many of the course topics involve hands-on experience which can only happen if you are here. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.
8. **Lab-Time:** All SRT majors enrolled in MUT 210-360 are required to log a minimum of 2 hours of lab-time each week beginning on the third week of the semester.
9. **Time requirement**: Per SFA policy, you are expected to spend **at least 4 hours per week**, outside of class time, practicing and working on assignments for this course. There will be weeks throughout the semester in which you will need to put slightly more time into your projects for this course. As SRT coursework in the SOM are a hybrid of artistic and technological studies, you will not only be working on projects and assignments but also regularly practicing. You are expected to practice at least 30 minutes every day in addition to the time you devote to course work.

10. **MS Teams**: Students must regularly check MS Teams for important class announcements.

11. **Turnitin**: Students must create an account on the Turnitin website and add this class, where students will submit several written assignments. Information below.

**Grade Weighting:**

- 35%  Homework and quizzes
- 10%  First Recording Project
- 10%  Second Recording Project
- 15%  Written Mid-Term Exam
- 15%  Written Final Exam
- 15%  Final Recording Project

**Grading Policy:**

All work will be graded on a 100-point scale and then converted to a letter grade at the conclusion of the semester.

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due by 11:59 pm on the day they are due.

Shorter homework assignments will be accepted late for a 10 point-per-day penalty for up to three days. After that, the grade will be a zero.

No other work apart from what is classified as “Homework” will be accepted late and thus receive a **zero** barring extenuating circumstances accepted by the instructor and university.

Work that is incomplete is considered late so please be sure that audio files are saved correctly.

Most projects assignments will be on our class MS Teams page, and most written assignments will be on Turnitin. Students It is the student’s responsibility to know where the assignments are posted and where work is accepted.
**Make-up quizzes and exams:**
Generally, in-class quizzes and exams cannot be made up. Every student must make every effort to attend all exams. If a significant conflict completely prohibits a student from attending, that student must make every effort to notify the instructor with as much notice as possible. At the instructor’s discretion, make-ups may be issued in very special circumstances.

**Tentative Course Calendar:**

Week 1: Syllabus and introduction to the course

Week 2: Microphone characteristics and specifications, microphone handling
   **Assignment: Microphone University**

Week 3: Microphone characteristics, microphone tests
   **Quiz**
   **Due: Microphone University**
   **Assignment: Microphone types compared**

Week 4: Microphone tests
   **Due: Microphone types compared**

Week 5: Voice
   **Assignment: 1st recording project**

Week 6: Acoustic guitar
   **Assignment: Guitar listening**

Week 7: Piano
   **Due: Guitar listening**
   **Due: 1st recording project**
   **Assignment: Piano listening**

Week 8: **Midterm**
   **Due: Piano listening**
Week 9: Electric guitar and bass
   Assignment: Second recording project

Week 10: Bowed strings and brass

Week 11: Woodwinds
   Quiz
   Due: Second recording project
   Assignment: Final recording project

Week 12: Drum week 1

Thanksgiving Break

Week 13: Drum week 2
   Assignment: Drum listening

Week 14: Presentation of final recording projects
   Due: Drum listening

Week 15: Wrapping up

Finals Week: Written Final Exam
   Section 1: Friday, December 13th 1:30 – 4:00 pm
   Section 2: Thursday, December 12th 1:30 – 4:00 pm

All dates, activities, topics, and assignments subject to change with fair notice.

Classroom Policies:
Our field of study, Sound Recording Technology, is a special field of study and we are fortunate to have such a program here at SFASU. We get to work and learn with specialized, and sometimes very, fragile and expensive equipment. Thus, the SRT program and associated classes have some specialized classroom rules that you may not be accustomed to in other university classes.
1. Wash your hands before entering class. In addition to helping to not spread germs and illness, we will be working on shared computer systems, mixers, and other equipment. Much of the equipment is hard to thoroughly clean and oil build up from your hands can also degrade
the equipment. Washing your hands before class is a win-win for everyone and the university’s equipment.

2. **Good Hygiene:** Unlike a large format lecture class, where your professor is far away from you and only a few students may be in close proximity to you, we will all be working close together. At times, you and I will be side by side learning about materials, components, tools, and techniques used in SRT. For your health and the sake of your colleagues and I, please practice good hygiene.

3. **Respect:** You should know how to appropriately conduct yourself as a respectful and thoughtful adult. With that being said, demonstrating disrespect toward your colleagues, your instructor, equipment, or this institution will not be tolerated.
   a. Special note: if you ever have hopes of working in the music industry, you will need to know how to get alone with all sorts of people(s).

4. No texting in class.

5. **Respect the equipment:** you will be fortunate enough to work with some really special and expensive equipment. Please handle this equipment with the utmost care. Never drop a microphone. Always be aware of yourself, surroundings, and others while handling the recording equipment.

**SRT Lab Policies:**

1. Only SRT students are allowed in the lab. School of music students are welcome if permission has been given by the director of the SRT program. Non-school of music students are never allowed in the lab without special permission, arrangement, or the presence of an SRT faculty member.

2. Adhere to your schedule times. Show up on time and leave on time. Our space is limited and we must be courteous to one another. Additionally, this is great practice for the real world or sharing studio and artistic spaces.

3. Never load or install programs on the SRT workstations...EVER.

4. Always bring your own headphones to the lab. You will do most of your lab work on headphones however, if no one else is in the lab, you are welcome to use the loudspeakers.

5. Back up your work on your personal thumb drive. Never expect your session to live on the SRT lab machines.

6. Safety! Never touch exposed wires! Some of our equipment is high powered and if it becomes damaged and unnoticed, exposed wires can pose a hazard to you and others. Report any exposed power wires to your instructor immediately. Do not attempt to deal with it yourself.

Safety! Your hearing is extremely important. Do not listen to music or recordings at high levels for extended periods of time.

**Recital Attendance:**

Frequently throughout the year, students, faculty members and guest artists are presented in recitals by the School of Music and College of Fine Arts. These recitals are open to the public. Because performance and listening experiences constitute an area of major importance in the study of music, all music majors are required to enroll in MUP 100.001 for seven semesters with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester. Music minors are
required to enroll for two semesters in MUP 100.003 with a minimum of 10 recitals and all convocations attended each semester.

**Course Evaluations:**
Near the conclusion of each semester, students electronically evaluate courses they have taken. Evaluation data is used for a variety of important purposes including: 1. Course and program improvement, planning, and accreditation; 2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and 3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, pay, and retention. As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Therefore, your response is critical.

Your participation in the evaluations of this course are very important and helpful to this class, program, and the university. Near the conclusion of each semester, students in the College of Fine Arts electronically evaluate courses taken with the college. The evaluation is used for a variety of important purposes including:

1. Course and program improvement, planning and accreditation;
2. Instruction evaluation purposes; and
3. Making decisions on faculty tenure, promotion, and retention.

As you evaluate this course, please be thoughtful, thorough, and accurate in completing the evaluation. Please know that the College of Fine Arts is committed to excellence in teaching and continued improvement. Therefore, your participation is crucial.

The course evaluation process has been simplified and is completed electronically through MySFA. Although the instructor will be able to view the names of students who complete the survey, all rating and comments are confidential and anonymous, and will not be available to the instructor until after final grades are posted.

**Student Ethics and Other Policy Information:** see [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/)

**Class Attendance and Excused Absence:**
Policy 6.7 Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student’s attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports (including the first 12 day attendance report) and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**
Policy 6.1 and 6.6 To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or
auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 936-468-3004 as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/

Student Academic Dishonesty:
Policy 4.1 Abiding by university policy on academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: - using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; - falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; - helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: - submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; - submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; - incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit. Penalties for Academic Dishonesty Penalties may include, but are not limited to, reprimand, no credit for the assignment or exam, resubmission of the work, make-up exam, failure of the course, or expulsion from the university. Student Appeals A student who wishes to appeal decisions related to academic dishonesty should follow procedures outlined in Academic Appeals by Students (6.3).

Withheld Grades:
Policy 5.5 At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

Student Code of Conduct:
Policy 10.4 Classroom behavior should not interfere with the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program. Unacceptable or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students who disrupt the learning environment may be asked to leave class and may be subject to judicial, academic or other penalties. This policy applies to all instructional forums, including electronic, classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The instructor shall have full discretion over what behavior is appropriate/inappropriate in the classroom. Students who do not attend class regularly or who perform poorly on class projects/exams may be referred to the iCare: Early Alert Program at SFA. Information regarding the iCare program is found at http://www.sfasu.edu/judicial/earlyalert.asp or call the office at 936- 468-2703.