



THE CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CENTER

a program of the Council For Christian Colleges & Universities

SYLLABUS ADVANCED STUDIO RECORDING

Instructor: Brian Cofer
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COURSE HOURS: M/T/W 10:30 a.m. - Noon

CREDIT: 3 semester credits

These recommended credits will be granted by your home institution. They will not be considered for transfer credits.

COURSE EQUIVALENCY:

This course may meet the requirements of an upper-level class in Recording, MIDI production, Notation - Finale and Sibelius and Electronic class.

OFFICE HOURS:

Our "physical and virtual doors are always open." If you have a question please don't hesitate to ask. If you would like to set up an appointment, we can do that too. As a courtesy, try not to call after 11PM or before 9AM, unless there is an emergency.

CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION:

- This course focuses on professional audio recording and production. The concepts and practices learned in this course will be used by the students to engineer songs for those students in the artist elective. The goal is for students to leave the CMC prepared for an entry level position in any area of studio recording.

OBJECTIVES:

- To use concepts learned in the Audio Engineering course for providing recording, editing and mixing services in collaboration with the Artist Elective and Business Elective students.
- To understand how to adequately prepare for a recording session, including creating and executing input lists and track sheets.
- To be able to trouble shoot and remedy equipment and wiring issues, including managing the computer and hardware used for recording.
- To understand and demonstrate studio microphone placement techniques.
- To understand signal flow in the studio and demonstrate the effective use of patchbay.
- To be able to make equipment choices and set up a studio.
- To communicate effectively and demonstrate
- the ability to collaborate with Artist and Business Elective students and faculty, while understanding the role audio engineers play in the various facets of the music business.



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METHODOLOGY:

Students in the Technical Elective typically already have some recording experience. If not, remedial work is provided in the first couple of weeks to get students up to speed with the rest of the class. Some of that work may be done before students arrive in Nashville.

Advanced Recording is a mix of classroom instruction and practical “lab work”; the recording studio being the lab. Each new topic is presented in the following manner:

- A detailed explanation of the theory behind the practice.
- Students demonstrate their ability to understand the concept in the studio
- Students apply their knowledge to recordings leading up to master #1
- Master #1 is reviewed, broken down and analyzed at the solo track level
- Students make adjustments to their technique and record the master #2 sessions
- Master #2 is reviewed to determine whether the student has adequate knowledge of the recording concept
- A final exam, both written and practical authenticates the understanding of each concept

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Students are required to attend all classes. Habitual tardiness or absence, defined as 5 or more tardies/absences, will result in the reduction of one full letter grade.
- Preparation: Students are expected to read the assigned material before each class
- Assignments: All engineering assignments must be completed on the due date

RECOMMENDED READING:

www.musicbooksplus.com
avid.custkb.com



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GRADING:

It is important to note that grades are not an assessment of your soul, your potential, or even hard work. They are an assessment of the quality of your work in this class. We also place great value on your attitude and demonstration of improvement.

The following is the CCCU Student Programs grading policy. This policy is administered by all CCCU Student Programs worldwide. The CCCU prides itself on the competitive nature of its admissions and its courses. Please note that a "B" is a good grade that represents "competent and complete" work. "A" grades are earned only by "superior" work. By that definition, "A" grades are a minority of grades earned by students. It is not impossible to earn an "A," but it is difficult.

A = Excellent creative and integrative work, revealing superior analysis and content.

B = Good work, competent and complete

C = Adequate work

D = Less than adequate work

F = Completely fails to meet expectations

We are always open to discussing any concerns over grading. If you have any questions or concerns, please come see me.

FINAL GRADE BREAKDOWN

25% Attendance, preparation and participation in class

60% Accuracy, creativity and professionalism both in rehearsals and on-stage

15% Faculty review

GRADE PERCENTAGE VALUES

Letter grades have the following percentage values:

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

(same pattern continues for other letter grades)

REPORTING GRADES

Students will receive weekly feedback on their performances. Final grades for the course will be mailed to students and their home institution after the completion of the semester.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

In the event of plagiarism, no credit will be granted for the assignment. Other disciplinary action may follow.



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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Studio signal flow and ProTools 12

Week 2: Pro Tools session setup, 'save as copy,' file organization

Week 3: Microphone choices, placement, and how room acoustics come into play

Week 4: Summing, buss compression, and parallel compression

Week 5: Mixing with depth and width

Week 6: Review 1st Master Recording

Week 7: Advanced Mix Development

Week 8: Advanced FX and Plugins

Week 9: MIDI, samples and sequencing

Week 10: Mastering

Week 11: Computer hardware setup, maintenance and networking

Week 12: Tour - Students are "hired" for each position needed for running the production of the shows. Selections are chosen by faculty based on performance throughout the semester.

Week 13: Review 2nd Master Recording

Week 14: Final Exam week