

MUIN 277 • Introduction to Music Technology

Course Syllabus • Spring 2010

Location: UUC B2 • Tuesday/Thursday, 4:00-5:50 • Dr. Brian Shepard, Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday 1-3 and by appointment

Course Description: Introduction to Music Technology is a survey of the technology used to create, prepare, perform and distribute music. Topics include recording systems, MIDI and sound synthesis, live performance systems, methods of music production and mastering, and digital distribution of music through Internet downloading and streaming.

Course Goal: It is the goal of Introduction to Music Technology that each student—upon successful completion—gains a working knowledge of the technological terminology and concepts necessary to function effectively in the music production industry.

Required Text: *Modern Recording Techniques*, 7th Edition by David Miles Huber and Robert E. Runstein.

Online Materials: Grades, class materials, in-class handouts, audio examples, and other supplemental materials and readings may be accessed in Blackboard. **I will only use your USC email to contact you and send any class notifications. Please check that account regularly, or have it forwarded to your regular email account.**

Quizzes, Exams, Attendance, and Grading Information: In addition to the two unit exams and final exam described below, there will be periodic, unannounced, short-answer quizzes over the reading assignments and previous lectures. There are no make-up quizzes, but the lowest quiz score for the semester will be dropped.

The two large, unit exams will cover the topics discussed prior to that particular exam only. However, the final exam will be cumulative. Exams must be taken during the scheduled times and cannot be made up at a later date without prior consent.

Attendance for all class sessions will be recorded. A sign-in sheet will be circulated during each class, and it is your responsibility to sign in. If you do not sign in, you will be counted absent for that class. Each student will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences without any direct effect on his/her grade. After the 2nd unexcused absence, the student's grade will be lowered 2% for each additional unexcused absence. If you cannot attend a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from Blackboard and/or a classmate.

Grade Breakdown:	Quizzes	20%
	Exams (2 @ 20%)	40%
	Final Exam	40%

Academic Dishonesty will not be tolerated in any part of this course including exams, quizzes and attendance sign-in. If you are not sure what violates the University code, please read the pertinent sections of *SCampus* or see me. Ignorance of the rules will not be an excuse.

Classroom Behavior: Talking, sleeping, eating, drinking, texting, cell phone usage, or any other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in class. Computers may be used, but only for the purpose of taking notes—not browsing the Internet, emailing, Facebooking, Twittering, etc. If you feel the need to do any of the above, please step outside until you are finished. If you are asked to leave class for any reason—including those just listed above—you must make an appointment with me to discuss the matter before you will be readmitted to class. If you are asked to leave a second time, you will be dropped from the class.

Disabilities Policy: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP (213-740-0776) is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 am-5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

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Class Schedule • Spring 2010

Class	Day	Date	Topic	Reading*
1	T	1/12	Introduction	pp. 1-26
2	Th	1/14	History of Recorded Sound	pp. 613-618
3	T	1/19	History of Recorded Sound	
4	Th	1/21	Physics of Sound	pp. 41-61
5	T	1/26	Hearing and Perception	pp. 61-71
6	Th	1/28	Studio Acoustics and Design	pp. 73-110
7	T	2/2	Electrical Basics and Audio Levels	pp. 37-39, 415-422
8	Th	2/4	Microphones	pp. 111-179
9	T	2/9	Monitoring	pp. 523-544
10	Th	2/11	Recording & Consoles	pp. 423-467
11	T	2/16	Review & Exam Prep	
12	Th	2/18	1st Exam	
13	T	2/23	Review Exam	
14	Th	2/25	Analog Audio and Recording	pp. 181-197
15	T	3/2	Digital Audio and Recording	pp. 199-233
16	Th	3/4	Computers and Music	pp. 235-289
17	T	3/9	Synthesis	
18	Th	3/11	Sampling	
	T	3/16	Spring Break	
	Th	3/18	Spring Break	
19	T	3/23	MIDI	pp. 309-367
20	Th	3/25	Review & Exam Prep	
21	T	3/30	2nd Exam	
22	Th	4/1	Review Exam & Recording Session Procedures	pp. 26-37, 597-612
23	T	4/6	Signal Processing	pp. 469-512
24	Th	4/8	Signal Processing and Noise Reduction	pp. 513-522
25	T	4/13	Mastering and Manufacturing	pp. 563-596
26	Th	4/15	Live Sound	
27	T	4/20	Sound Design and Sound Effects	
28	Th	4/22	Film & Surround Sound	pp. 545-561
29	T	4/27	Internet and Multimedia Distribution	pp. 369-391
30	Th	4/29	Internet and Multimedia Distribution	
31	TBD		Review & Exam Prep	
32	T	5/6**	Final Exam (4:30-6:30pm)	

*Reading assignments are from *Modern Recording Techniques*, 7th Edition and are to be completed before coming to class that day. Periodic quizzes will be given without warning to verify compliance with reading assignments. The above schedule lists the *required* readings. You are, of course, welcome to read the other sections of the book as well.

Please note the date of the Final Exam. Flights home and vacation plans are **not considered valid reasons for scheduling a final early. Take care when making your plans.