

Computer Assisted Recording and Editing (MUIN 446b) Course Syllabus, Spring 2011

Instructor:

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Office Hours: Tuesday 8am – 12 noon (Skype), Thursday 1pm – 4pm
(Skype); on-campus meetings by appointment.

Course Description:

Computer Assisted Recording is an introduction to techniques and applications of recording sound on personal computers. Discussions will also include a study of the hardware and software required as well as editing music, dialog, and sound effects for song, commercials and film.

Requirements, Exams and Grading Information:

Student evaluation in 446b will consist of tests and practical assignments. The assignments include short exercises as well as a larger term project. In general, students will be given two weeks to complete and turn in exercises. All assignments are to be turned in to the class folder on the Flora server and must carefully follow file management and format guidelines. Concise instructions for the term project will be available at a later date.

There will be bi-weekly quizzes given at the beginning of class, which consist of multiple choice questions and true/false questions. The mid-term exam will be a hands-on exercise designed to test the practical skills developed during the first half of the semester. A study guide will be available the class meeting prior to the test. All tests and quizzes must be taken during the scheduled times and cannot be made up at a later date.

Attendance will be taken each class and will count towards your final grade. After two absences your grade will be lowered one-half grade for each additional absence. Because of the importance of hands on experience with this subject, attendance to all classes is the only method of understanding the concepts of this specialized topic.

Grading Summary:

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| 1. Participation | 10% |
| 2. Quizzes | 10% |
| 3. Mid-term exam | 20% each |
| 4. Exercises | 35% total |
| 5. Class Project | 25% |

***Please be advised anyone found surfing the web will be asked to leave the class. Before you can be readmitted to the class you must meet with the department chairman.

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Class Text and Supplementary Materials:

1. Huber, David Miles. *The MIDI Manual* (3rd Edition). Focal Press (2007).
Recommended.
2. Pro-Tools 9.0 Reference Guide (free download from <http://avid.custkb.com/avid/app/selfservice/search.jsp?DocId=364071&Hilite=Pro+Tools+Reference+Guide+v8.0>)
3. Instructor handouts and lecture notes (available on BlackBoard under Course Documentation)
4. Reference headphones are required and should be brought to all classes. All assignments will be evaluated using Sony MDR 7506 reference headphones!
5. USB Memory Stick

Communication:

Please make it a habit to use/check your USC E-mail account. Any E-mails I send to the class will use that account. ***Please add 446b in the subject header of all emails that you send me*** In addition, all course materials and class grades will be posted on BlackBoard (<http://blackboard.usc.edu>). For example the course syllabus can be found under Course Information and class notes under Course Documentation.

Disabilities:

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 (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is 213/740-0776.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity-Students are expected to adhere to the Academic Integrity Guidelines of USC as outlined in the current edition of SCampus. Work found to contain plagiarized or uncited passages will be referred to the USC Office of Student Conduct for review. Academic Integrity violations will result in a failing grade for submitted material and for the course, and dismissal from the Music Industry Program for majors and minors.

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Tentative Class Schedule (subject change with teacher review of class progress):

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/13	Introduction to MIDI	MM 1, 3 and 4
2	1/20	Pro Tools and MIDI (Exercise 1)	Lecture Notes
3	1/27	MIDI Editing (Exercise 2) Quiz 1	MM 2 and 5
4	2/03	Reason, Rewire and MIDI Looping (Exercise 3)	Lecture Notes
5	2/10	Drum Plug-Ins and Programming Drum Parts (Exercise 4) Quiz 2	MM 7
6	2/17	Virtual Samplers and Continuous Controllers (Exercise 5)	MM 2
7	2/24	Analog Synth Plug-Ins, Arpeggiators (Exercise 6) Quiz 3	Lecture Notes
8	3/03	Midterm Exam	
9	3/10	Delays and Filters Final Project Explanation	Lecture Notes
	3/17	<i>Spring Recess</i>	
10	3/24	Quantizing Audio Regions and Beat Detective I Quiz 4	
11	3/31	Beat Detective II and Sound Replacer (Exercise 7)	Lecture Notes
12	4/07	Elastic Time (Exercise 8)	Lecture Notes
13	4/14	Track Comping (Exercise 9) Quiz 5	Lecture Notes
14	4/21	PTs and Video	MM 10 - 11
15	4/28	Final Project progress check	
	5/03	Final Project Due 5pm on the Flora Server	

*** Important Note! PIC 200 will be closed as of 5pm on 5/03. There will be no open lab time after that date. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Please plan accordingly.