

SYLLABUS: MTEC 430, Advance Instrumental Recording 43486D 2 units

6-7:50 PM Monday

Instructor: Richard McIlvery
E-mail: mcilvery@usc.edu
Office: TMC 129
Office Hours: Mondays 10:15-11:45pm in MUS 103; Tuesdays 2:00-3:45pm in MUS103 or by email appointment.
Department Phone: (213) 740-3224
Mailbox: TMC 118 Department

Course Description

Advanced Instrumental Recording is an in-depth study of multitrack miking techniques used in modern-day recording. Topics include drums, guitars, bass, keyboards, brass and strings and voice with emphasis on microphone types, models and position. The class consists of a lecture and lab on alternating Mondays.

The course will record a pop song, one instrument at a time during labs. At the end of the semester will should have complete song that we will mix.

Requirements, Exams and Grading Information:

Student evaluation in 430 will consist of a variety of work including one midterm and one final exam.

Tests will contain mostly short answer or multiple-choice questions. Tests must be taken during the scheduled times and cannot be made up at a later date. If you miss an exam because of health reasons, you must contact the instructor before the test time.

Attendance will be taken each class and will count towards your final grade. *After three 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:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 1. Midterm | 35% |
| 2. Quizzes | 20% (if needed; otherwise divided evenly between MT & Final |
| 3. Final Exam | 45% |
| 4. Participation | 10% |

In the event that there are no quizzes, 10% will be added to each the Midterm and the Final.

Communication:

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Please make it a habit to use and check your USC email account daily. Any emails I send to the class will use that account. In addition all course materials, quizzes and class grades will be posted on BlackBoard (<http://learn.usc.edu>). For example the course syllabus can be found under Course Information and class notes under Course Documentation.

CLASS TEXT:

Modern Recording Techniques: Huber, David M. and Runstein, Robert E.
 Focal Press, New York, 2013 ISBN: 0240821572

Class Schedule
 (definitely subject to change)

Meeting	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/21/17	Introduction: Acoustic recording principles; microphone review	
2	8/28/17	Drums; Kick, Snare, Hi Hat, Toms, Overheads; Room Mics	
3	9/4/17	Labor Day	
4	9/11/17	Record Drums; Jake Reed	
5	9/18/17	Acoustic steel string; 6 & 12-string Acoustic nylon string; Other; mandolin, Dobro Electric guitars; mic and direct input	
6	9/25/17	Guitars (Con't)	
7	10/2/17	Record Guitar; Tim Kobza	
8	10/9/17	Mid Term Exam	
9	10/16/17	Bass; Acoustic; Multiple Mics; Electric Bass; mic and DI	
10	10/23/17	Record Bass	
11	10/30/17	Keyboards; Acoustic keyboards; Piano, grand, upright, harpsichord; Electric; Rhodes, Wurlitzer, Synths; Organ; Hammond B3, M3; Leslie speaker	
12	11/6/17	Record Keyboards, Other	
13	11/13/17	Brass & Winds; Solo instruments; Bell; trumpet, trombone, tuba, saxes, French horn Finger hole; flute, clarinet, oboe, English horn, bassoon Ambient; French Horn; Group/section recording	
14	11/20/17	Record Vocals Vocals: Mics, headphones, Position, Punch techniques; SSL "Super Cue"	
15	11/27/17	Orchestral recording; Classical ensembles; Film Scoring; Mixing, panning, micing	
	12/11/17	Final Exam Monday Dec 11, 2017 7-9:00pm	

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Other Important Information:

Final Exam Schedule:

Flights home and vacation plans are not considered valid reasons for scheduling a final early - so, take care when making your plans.

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Section 11, *Behavior Violating University Standards*<https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/>. Academic Integrity violations will result in a failing grade for submitted material and for the course, and possible dismissal from the Music Industry Program for majors and minors.

Class Participation

Attendance in all class sessions will be monitored and will count towards your final grade. If you are not in class you cannot participate. Because of the specialized nature of this subject, attendance and participation are critical for understanding the material and concepts covered in this class. However, missing more than two classes can lower grades proportionately. Missing more than four classes qualifies you to be dropped from the course or you can receive a grade of FAIL. If you cannot attend a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from BlackBoard or a classmate, not me. If an extenuating circumstance arises that forces you to miss more than the allowed classes, contact the instructor immediately.

Pop Quizzes:

Occasional quizzes may be given without warning to insure that the class is keeping up with assigned reading and lectures.

Classroom Behavior:

No food in class

No cell phones or computers on in class!

Student Disability:

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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.

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Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” <https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

Support Systems:

Student Counseling Services (SCS) - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1-800-273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

Bias Assessment Response and Support

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Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

Student Support & Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

Diversity at USC – <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

Tab for Events, Programs and Training, Task Force (including representatives for each school), Chronology, Participate, Resources for Students

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Bibliography:

Mastering Audio: The Art and the Science

Bob Katz

Focal Press; (November 26, 2002)

ISBN: 0240805453

Microphones: Technology and Technique

John Borwick, Focal Press

ISBN 0-240-51279-0

On Location Recording Techniques

Bruce Bartlett (Author), Jenny Bartlett (Author)

Focal Press; (May 1999)

ISBN: 0240803795

Practical Recording Techniques, Third Edition

Bruce Bartlett (Author), Jenny Bartlett (Author)

Focal Press; 3rd edition (December 2001)

ISBN: 0240804732

Sound and Recording: An Introduction, Fourth Edition (Music Technology)

Francis Rumsey (Author), Tim McCormick

Focal Press; 4th edition (June 2002)

ISBN: 024051680X

Introduction to Professional Recording

Bartlett, Bruce

Techniques, Howard W. Sams & Co., New York, 1987

ISBN: 0-672-22574-3

Modern Recording Techniques

Huber, David M. and Runstein, Robert E.

Focal Press, New York, 2013

ISBN: 0240821572