Basic Studio Techniques 1, MUS 173 Syllabus

General Information

Instructor

Tim Heldt

Contact Information and Availability

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Course Information

Basic Studio Techniques MUS 173
This course teaches the fundamentals of the recording arts, including basic audio signal and acoustics theory, digital audio fundamentals, recording consoles, microphone design and signal processing.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will gain a functional knowledge of non-linear hard disk recording & editing, and will gain entry level functionality regarding audio monitors, digital and analog consoles and DAW controllers. They will learn the fundamentals of the science of sound and hearing that pertains to audio recording. They will be able to demonstrate knowledge of microphone design types and entry level use of audio signal processing software. They will be able to operate a digital audio workstation to produce basic multitrack audio recordings and will be able to perform beginning mixdown techniques. Students will also be introduced to studio acoustics and design principles.

Required Materials

“Modern Recording Techniques” – David Huber, Eighth Edition

Optional Materials

Various recording and music industry magazines are available, for free, in room 204.

Section Policies

Lab Policies
The co-requisite MUS 173 Lab will be hands on recording practice using eight specific lab assignments. Each lab is worth a possible 25 points. The labs will be completed in the workstations at the rear of room 204. Each lab’s due date will be noted on each lab sheet as they are made available.
**Grading Policies**
Your grade will be computed in the following manner:

* Tests and quizzes – 45%
* Lab projects and term paper – 30%
* Final exam and final project – 25%
* Attendance each unexcused absence beyond three will lower your grade by 1%
* Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated

**Final Written Exam and Final Performance Evaluation**
Each student will be required to attend the final exam and final lab performance assessment in one of GRCC’s recording labs. The final exam/final performance review time will be during the last week of the semester or can be arranged with your instructor according to your schedule. The requirements of the final performance evaluation will be made available several weeks from the end of the course.

**Quizzes**
There will be four written quizzes during the semester. These will be given during or upon the completion of each unit as listed in the course outline. A missed quiz will be graded as 0. It is the responsibility of the student to request a make-up quiz if you miss one. No cell phones/iPods/iPads/cameras will be allowed during the quizzes.

**Term Paper**
You will be required to write a term paper on a topic that relates to audio recording. Check the list of appropriate term paper topics available on each module’s page. If you choose a different topic please check with your instructor if the topic is acceptable. There is more information on the term paper guidelines on the “Term Paper Ideas” link on the links bar on each module’s instruction page. This will be due by midnight of the first Wednesday of Module 7 – late papers may be scored lower or not accepted at all upon the discretion of the instructor.

**Recording Lab**
Room 204 is the Recording Technology lab. The lab consists of a single fully complemented ProTools hard disk recording system with a Yamaha DM2000VCM digital automated console and a Digidesign D-Command controller, as well as outboard signal processing equipment. This main system is considered to be the teaching equipment and will be used by the instructor. However, you will have the opportunity to schedule this system throughout the semester. In addition, there are four AVID workstation controllers in room 204. These systems are basically the same software as the larger teaching system but with fewer plug-ins and tracks. You will be allowed to work on these workstations during open lab hours. Available lab hours will be posted. You will have access to the lab when a lab attendant is on duty or when your instructor is in the room, or has given you permission to do so.
Office Hours
Office hours will be posted after the fall schedule has been planned. If you are confused in any way about the material covered in class or lab, you are encouraged to set up time with the instructor for help either in person, by phone or email. If posted office hours do not align with your schedule, please contact your instructor.

COLLEGE POLICIES
The academic policies and procedures of GRCC are outlined in the College Catalog. College-wide policies and procedures, to include (but not limited to) grading, Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), Student Right to Know, Privacy, Affirmative Action, Equal Employment Opportunity, Americans with Disability Act (ADA), concealed weapons, smoking, campus crime, copyright, academic grievances and discipline grievances, are at http://www.grcc.edu/catalog. Additional policies, to include (but not limited to) academic integrity, disability support services, posting/distributing literature, selling merchandise, fundraising, classroom disruption, conduct and substance abuse, can be found in the GRCC Student Handbook at http://www.grcc.edu/handbook. These policies and procedures are subject to change and incorporated by reference.

GRCC E_MAIL
E-mail should only be used for issues that are not appropriate for the whole class (e.g. questions about your grade, constructive criticism or personal issues). When you e-mail your instructor, please include a proper reference in the "subject" field, any message you are responding to, and your name. Your professor will respond to your e-mail within 24 hours. If you don’t get a response in timeframe, there is probably a technical problem. Ensure that you regularly check the e-mail account listed for you in Blackboard.

TUTOR
If you are interested in getting help from a tutor, please ask your instructor. Tutors for this course are only available on campus.

Disability Support Services
Students with disabilities who wish to request accommodations must be registered with the Disability Support Services Office (DSS) in Room 368 of the Student Center. You may contact DSS at (616) 234-4140 for more information. Once you are registered with the DSS Office, you will receive an Accommodations Agreement to present to me to verify your registration. Please see me as soon as possible so we may have a private conversation to discuss accommodations.

Student Code of Conduct
All GRCC students are held accountable to the Student Code of Conduct, which outlines expectations pertaining to academic honesty (including
cheating and plagiarism), classroom conduct, and general conduct. The Code can be found in full at [Student Code of Conduct].

**Changes to the Syllabus**
The instructor reserves the right to change the contents of this syllabus due to unforeseen circumstances. Students will be given notice of relevant changes in class, through a Blackboard Announcement, or through GRCC e-mail.