

Course Syllabus: Music (73)-113

Recording Studio Techniques I

Instructor: Wally Messner

Office: N230

Phone: 424-7034

Credits: 2

Hour: 8:00 T, R

Room: A/C N223

Office Hours: See posted schedule or by appointment

Objectives:

Familiarize students with the fundamentals of sound, the professional recording studio, and audio engineering. This course will emphasize the understanding of sound and

acoustics; microphone design, construction, and placement; and equalization and its application.

This course is primarily textbook oriented, with scheduled lab-type sessions in the recording studio to demonstrate the topics and procedures under discussion.

Readings will be assigned from text, related magazine articles, and class handouts.

Topics will also be discussed in extra studio lab sessions.

Grading:

A minimum of five exams will be given, based on the above materials.

1. Hearing and sound
2. Microphone design and construction
3. Microphone placement
4. Equalization types and uses
5. Equalization application

Exams will be of the short answer/explanation/definition type.

In addition to testing, a critique of the engineering techniques (not musical content) of one contemporary piece (of the student's choice) is required. This will include discussion of basic engineering parameters; i.e., balance, panning, equalization, delay, reverb, and special effects on each individual instrument or section heard in the mix. The critique must be accompanied by a recording (cassette or CD) and grading will be weighted equivalent to one exam. This critique is due 2 weeks prior to the end of the semester.

Students will also be expected to observe a minimum of one recording session of their choice with an upper class recording student. A slip signed by the person in charge of the session must be turned in by the end of the semester. Studio use will be posted on the bulletin board outside of my office.

Although lab sessions are not listed for this course, there will be several "extra" meetings to demonstrate the material being discussed in class. I will collect schedules from all students for this purpose. These lab sessions are not mandatory. Regular attendance and class participation are expected. In the event of illness or other absence please notify either Wally Messner or the Music Office. 2

Text:

Modern Recording Techniques 6th Ed., Robert Runstein and David Miles Huber, Howard Sams Publishing Co.