

MUSIC PRODUCTION AND RECORDING

COMM 254 – Semester Year – CAC 112, 126, 301
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
MW 3-4:50

Faculty Info:

Chris Shofner
Assistant Professor
Office: CAC 312
Email: cshofner@uwsp.edu
Phone: 715-346-3601

Office Hours:

MTW: 10-11
RF: By Appointment

Course Description:

Principles, techniques, and processes of multi-track music recording.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of the foundational theories and techniques of studio and live music recordings.
2. Students will identify the foundational aesthetic, technical, and historical components of music recording.
3. Students will analyze and produce music recordings to be critiqued by their peers and instructor.

Required Texts:

Gottlieb, Gary. *Shaping Sound in the Studio and Beyond: Audio Aesthetics and Technology*. Boston, MA: Thomson, 2007.

Required Supplies:

Stereo Headphones
External Hard Drive (USB 3.0 recommended)

Equipment Technology Fee

If you are still enrolled in this course on the ninth day of the semester, a \$25 rental equipment fee will be charged to your student account. Paying this fee allows you to access production equipment (cameras, tripods, light kits, etc.) available for check-out through the IT Help Desk.

Outline: (Subject to Change, Expand, Contract) – First time offered so we will be pretty fluid.

Week 1:
Course Introduction
Understanding Digital Sound

Week 2:
Types, application and placement of microphones
Mic Placement practice

Week 3:
Online Activities – additional info will be provided

Week 4:
Online Activities – additional info will be provided

Week 5:
Adobe Audition Basics Demo (audio files provided) – CAC 301

Begin Project 1

Week 6:
Miking instruments hands-on

Week 7:
Miking instruments hands-on
Project 1 Presentation
Test Review

Week 8:
Test 1
Project 2 Introduction

Week 9:
Additional Adobe Audition info
Effects

Week 10:
Project 2 Presentation
Project 3 Introduction

Week 11:
Mixing/Mastering

Week 12:
Advanced Concepts

Week 13:
Student Requests
Thanksgiving

Week 14:
Publishing Music (CD/Online)
Spill

Week 15: Project 3 Presentations

Week 16: Test 2
Monday, December 19th: 8-10AM

Project Descriptions (students will receive a detailed handout for each project)

Project 1: Microphone Placement Project

Students will capture and reflect on the recording of a single sound source by a variety of microphones from multiple placements, distances, and angles.

Project 2: Single Instrument Studio Recording

Students will work in small groups to produce a single track studio recording with a musician.

Project 3: Multi-instrument, Multi-track Recording

Students will work in small groups to produce a multi-track recording with multiple instruments

Listening Assignments: Each week students will turn in a one paragraph report describing in the greatest detail possible a single recording. Students will describe each instrument and its tonal qualities as well as the track as a whole. These will become more detailed as the semester progresses.

Assignment Policy:

Late assignments will not be accepted. Students are responsible for all course materials, including, but not limited to: class lectures, handouts, textbook reading assignments, projects, labs, and quizzes. Assignments and due dates may be changed at the instructor's discretion with fair notice to students. Please see the attached tentative course schedule for specific assignments and due dates.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class regularly. Three absences are allowed. The fourth absence will lower the final grade by one letter. The fifth will lower the final grade by two letters. On the sixth

absence, the student must drop or s/he will fail the course. If a student must be absent the day a presentation/project or exam is scheduled, s/he must notify the instructor prior to class time. No make-ups will be given if the instructor is not given a legitimate excuse before the time of the assignment due date. Students who are excessively late to class will be counted as absent.

Last day to drop without a grade: September 15th

Last day to drop the course: November 11th

Grading:

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|-----------------------|-----|
| Exams | 30% |
| Projects | 50% |
| Quizzes | 10% |
| Listening Assignments | 10% |

Grading Scale: A= 94-100%; A-= 90-93%; B+= 87-89%; B= 83-86%; B- =80-82%; C+=77-79; C=73-76%; C-=70-72%; D+=67-69%; D=63-66%; D-=60-62% F= Below 60%

Electronic Device Policy:

Do not use cellular phones or other electronic devices (i.e. social media) during class instruction time. In addition, students are asked to use classroom computers for class work only. The use of any electronic device during an exam or quiz will result in an immediate "F" for that assignment.

Email Notification:

The instructor will send information to students through the campus computer system. Therefore, students **MUST** check their UWSP campus email and D2L on a regular basis.

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law requiring educational institutions to provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information about UWSP's policies, check here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

If you have a disability and require classroom and/or exam accommodations, please register with the Disability and Assistive Technology Center and then contact me at the beginning of the course. I am happy to help in any way that I can. For more information, please visit the Disability and Assistive Technology Center, located on the 6th floor of the Learning Resource Center (the Library). You can also find more information here: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/special/disability/>

University Handbook Statement:

UWSP values a safe, honest, respectful, and inviting learning environment. In order to ensure that each student has the opportunity to succeed, we have developed a set of expectations for all students and instructors. This set of expectations is known as the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, and it is intended to help establish a positive living and learning environment at UWSP. Click here for more information: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Pages/rightsandresponsibilities.aspx>

Academic integrity is central to the mission of higher education in general and UWSP in particular. Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, etc.) is taken very seriously. Don't do it! The minimum penalty for a violation of academic integrity is a failure (zero) for the assignment. For more information, see the UWSP "Student Academic Standards and Disciplinary Procedures" section of the *Rights and Responsibilities* document, Chapter 14, which can be accessed here: <http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>