



MUSIC 156 Audio Production I

Credits: 5

Location: **Room A154 [MIDI Lab]**

Class days and time:

Sect HYA: 10:30-11:20 TTH

Sect HYB: 11:30-12:20 TTH

Instructor: **Kelly Kunz**

Office: **A158**

Office Hours: **Monday-Thursday by appointment only.**

email: **kelly.kunz@bellevuecollege.edu**

Class website: accessible through your *MYBC* page

MUSIC 156—Audio Production I [General Description]

Students will learn practical, technical and theoretical concepts needed for utilizing a digital recording studio and contemporary recording technology. Preparation for creative and technical careers in sound engineering and music production, are intertwined. Topics covered and/or discussed, include audio signal path and signal routing concepts, using an analog recording/mixing console, microphone usage, recording devices, digital editing, trouble shooting, project planning, studio etiquette, introduction to Pro Tools and basic mixing techniques. Enrollment in the class entitles the student to access the midi lab and recording studio as available during posted hours.

Suggested Materials:

1. Pro Tools 10 Explained (Tutorial DVD's)

Website: www.Groove3.com

Can be purchased online - this is a good, inexpensive resource.

2. www.lynda.com (this costs \$25 per month) a two month membership would be incredibly helpful. Great website.

Requirements: Your headphones and drives must be brought to class on Thursday, Week 1!

1. Stereo Headphones, preferably with 1/4"(phono) jack on the end. (Like a guitar cord).
2. USB Thumb Drive or some sort of backup drive [4 GB available minimum].

Outcomes from Course to include:

1. Plug in and operate analog audio system: including the use of multiple monitor mixes, using auxiliary busses, patching and managing multiple inputs/outputs and patching in outboard FX processors.
2. Understand and demonstrate usage and manipulation of digital signal pathways.
3. *Develop a basic understanding of rhythm, studio charting & drum grooves. (Audio 157)*
4. Develop fundamental recording skills: vocals, drums, percussion, bass, guitars, piano & keyboards.
5. Apply effective miking techniques for all the above.
6. Recognize, identify and properly select studio cables and connectors.
7. Understand and demonstrate usage of external microphone pre-amplifier.
8. Work in a multi-tracking environment: both, basic tracking and overdubbing.
9. Work with an analog studio console, and an Aviom headphone amplification system.
10. Develop effective headphone mixes for performers, including the use of FX and a click track.
11. Begin to develop critical listening skills.
12. Develop effective communication skills within the studio environment.
13. Understand and define basic studio terminology.
14. Start up and configure a Pro Tools Session.
15. Use the main Pro Tools windows and customize displays.
16. Record audio into a Pro Tools session.
17. Import and export audio files and regions.
18. Use basic Pro Tools MIDI features.
19. Work with selections and navigate a Pro Tools Session.
20. Create audio regions and edit tracks.
21. Create Stereo mixes within Pro Tools.
22. Process audio using RTAS plug-ins.
23. Bounce to disk.
24. Work with music and post-production projects.
25. Create mp3 files in iTunes.

Grading Criteria: (Class attendance is mandatory for a passing grade).

Attendance, Assignments, quizzes, lab hours & Final Project

Attendance: (25% of grade).

School policy states that if a student misses class 20% of the time or more, they may receive a failing grade. When put in the context of this hybrid course, that equates to missing 4 scheduled days of class. For every unexcused absence beyond 1, the students grade will automatically be reduced by .5.

It is the responsibility of the student to communicate with the instructor regarding *excused* absences. This must be done in person and in writing via email. If the instructor does not receive an email before noon, the day of class or previous notice, that absence will be considered *unexcused*. Attendance will be taken each day at the beginning of

class, should a student show up late to class, it is solely the responsibility of the student to be sure they were not marked absent, but please do not interrupt class to do so. Do this after class and know that if the student forgets, then that will unfortunately be counted as an absence. If a student is sick or has some sort of unforeseeable emergency, it is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor via e-mail. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late will be counted as absent.

Assignments: (25% of grade).

Some assignments will be pass/fail, some assignments will be graded. The grading criteria for each assignment will be explained within Canvas. Late assignments will not be reviewed or excepted unless previous arrangements have been made with the instructor. Most assignments will be online and will be due no later than 11 PM on Monday nights. There will be the occasional assignment that will be due in class, so be sure to keep track of these details.

Quizzes: (25% of grade).

Quizzes will be given at the conclusion of most modules. Each quiz will be available online through Canvas starting no later than 6 AM on Wednesday mornings (sometimes sooner) and concluding at 11 PM on Monday nights. You may take the quizzes anytime during this time period. All quizzes will be graded. All quizzes will be online and students will typically have an hour to complete. Quiz materials will be derived from in-class lecture and discussion as well as any and all online content provided with each module. Students should consult the course's online calendar for specific quiz dates. Quizzes cannot be made up. *Instructor reserves the right to change the quiz schedule at any time, so be sure to check your Canvas calendar daily.

Final Project: (25% of grade).

The final project is a significant part of this course. It is the student's opportunity to bring together and demonstrate the concepts learned throughout the quarter. Emphasis is placed upon successful and thorough planning, timely execution and completion of a professional level recording project. Failure to complete and turn in a final project will result in a final grade no higher than a D. Further details regarding final projects will be discussed in class.

Important:

Students are expected to adhere to all studio and lab etiquette requirements and expectations discussed in class. Not doing so will likely result in a loss of studio privileges and consequently, a failing grade for the quarter. This includes not showing up for a scheduled studio session.

Showing up for a Recording/Studio Session:

Due to the number of students who use the recording studio's during a quarter, it is extremely important that students do not skip, forget, or simply not show up for a previously scheduled recording session. Students who do not show up are NOT guaranteed an opportunity to make up that session and run the risk of failing the course. In addition to any assignments, you will have approximately 3-4 sessions during the quarter for Audio Production I (Music 156). If a student runs into an emergency, be sure to call the studio and let them know that you cannot be there.

Instructor Illness:

Students should check Canvas site every morning **before** coming to class. If the instructor is unexpectedly ill or cannot be in class that day, it WILL be posted on Canvas no later than 8 AM.

Lab Hours:

The midi lab is expected to be open from 2:30-9:00 M-TH, 1-7:00 PM on Fridays and 12-6 on the weekends. Lab is closed during all holidays and all days in which there are no student classes, such as teacher work days, etc.

Studio Hours:

See "Lab Hours". Hours are identical. One in awhile due to unforeseen circumstances, Studio hours are subject to change, so be sure to check the online calendar.

Final Exam:

Completion of the final project will be considered as the final exam. Project fully completed and turned in on time. *Late projects will not be accepted.*

Student Responsibility:

Instructors may, at their discretion, agree to accept student work that is submitted in various ways, including in person, to the division office, or via e-mail. It is the student's responsibility to verify that all assignments are actually received by the instructor, whether they are submitted in person or electronically.

It is the student's responsibility, not the instructor's, to initiate communication about progress or concerns with the course. Instructors are under no obligation to inform students that work is overdue, to nag students to complete assignments, or to call students who fail to attend class. Similarly, students need to keep themselves informed about syllabus changes that may have been made in class. We suggest finding a partner the first week of classes and keeping each other up to date if one is absent.

BC Attendance policy:

Attendance at all scheduled class meetings is mandatory. This requirement is particularly meant to apply to courses that are designated for classroom delivery, although distance education courses may also have certain attendance requirements. This requirement is intended 1) to prevent instructors from having to adjudicate individual excuses, and 2) to recognize that excuses are ultimately irrelevant both here at BC and in the workplace.

While specific attendance requirements are up to individual faculty members, the Arts and Humanities Division recognizes that attending class and participating actively are perhaps the most important way in which students can set themselves up for success. Conversely, not attending class almost certainly leads to failure.

Students in performance courses (Drama, Music, etc.) are reminded that attendance builds the professional relationship necessary between partners or in working groups.

In order for students to be eligible for a grade in a course, they must not miss more than ten classes, or 20% of the total class time scheduled, for any reason. When absences go beyond ten, instructors may a) give a grade of "F" for the course, or b) lower the final grade as much as they see fit. This does not imply that you may be absent fewer than ten times or 20% without seeing an effect on your grade; indeed, we wish to emphasize that any absence undermines your progress and will result in your having to work harder to catch up. Ten absences or 20% is merely the figure beyond which you cannot go without risking your eligibility for a course grade. In cases of legitimate hardship, students may also request that instructors grant a "HW" (hardship withdrawal), which is a non-credit grade.

In summary, when you are absent from a class more than ten times or 20% in any given quarter, you may receive a failing grade. Whatever written policy an instructor has in the syllabus will be upheld by the Arts and Humanities Division in any grievance process.