



## MUSIC 157 Audio Production II

Credits:

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

Class days and time: **MW 10:30-12:20**

Instructor: **Kelly Kunz**

Office: **A158**

Office Hour: **by appointment**

email: [Kelly.kunz@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:Kelly.kunz@bellevuecollege.edu)

**Studio Phone:**

Class website: accessible through your *MYBC* page

### **MUSIC 157—Audio Production II [General Description]**

Course will cover advanced recording techniques, and will further explore and develop the miking and audio editing techniques covered in Audio 156. Students will learn all phases of producing a musical project from organization, assembling talent, proper pre-production practices, collaboration with artists and/or song writers, production strategies during a recording session and mixing the final product. Topics covered and/or discussed, will also include securing recording rights as well as possible future employment opportunities in the recording/digital audio industry. Enrollment in the class entitles the student to access the midi lab and recording studio as available during posted hours. Course requires each student to either work in tandem with a partner, or individually produce a two significant production projects as well as successfully completing all class assignments and quizzes.

### **Requirements:**

1. Stereo Headphones, or, a stereo mini plug to ¼" adapter.
2. USB Flash Drive [at least 4 GB] or some other portable storage drive.

### **Outcomes from Course to include:**

1. Understand different microphone types & patterns.
2. Understand and demonstrate usage of advanced headphone monitoring system.
3. Understand and demonstrate how to engineer and produce multiple performers in a recording environment.
4. Understand and demonstrate how to use practical aspects of the Digidesign C|24 console-controller.
5. Understand and demonstrate how to operate analog recording console.
6. Understand and demonstrate how to use digital audio plug-ins for audio tracking and mixing.
7. Understand and demonstrate how to mic up a full band and other assorted musical combinations. Including the use of DI's and other assorted microphone techniques.
8. Demonstrate fundamental operational techniques in Pro Tools software.
9. Demonstrate an understanding of digital and analog pathways.

10. Demonstrate thorough understanding in using digital auxiliary busses.
11. Demonstrate effective mixing practices, including effective musical balancing and effective use of EQ.

**Topics to be covered in course:**

Basic Audio recording review  
Effective use of Pro Tools Edit and Mix groups  
Effectively managing computer resources  
Working with Elastic Audio and Beat Detective  
Using Pro Tools Automation  
Techniques for Recording and Over-dubbing audio  
    Auto Punching  
    Layering  
    Effective monitoring and headphone mixes  
    When to use Stereo vs. Mono  
Using Plug-ins  
Using Virtual Instruments  
Effective use of grouping for mixing purposes  
Effective evaluative and listening skills  
Developing effective communication skills within the session

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

Attendance, Assignments, quizzes, lab hours & Final Project

**Attendance / Promptness:**

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.

Attendance will be taken daily, but an attendance grade will not be given. The only caveat here is that students should keep in mind the above stated school attendance policy as it will be enforced in this course.

Being on time to a class like this is extremely important. Daily activities (demonstrations, etc.) will begin immediately after attendance is taken. Students who arrive late are not to interrupt the flow of class and are at a distinct disadvantage as the course will typically be covering new ground on a daily basis. Students who show up late will not know what to do.

**Assignments:** (33% of grade).

Some assignments will be pass/fail, some assignments will be graded. The grading criteria for each assignment will be explained within Canvas and/or in class. Late assignments will lose 10% per day. 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 via the Canvas calendar.

**Quizzes:** (33% 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 and concluding at 11 PM on Monday nights. You may take these 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 courses 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:** (33% of grade).

The final project is a significant part of this course. It is the students 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 on time 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 associated with this 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 previously scheduled studio sessions.

**Instructor Illness:**

Students should check Vista Blackboard 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 Blackboard no later than 9 AM.

**Lab Hours:**

The midi lab is expected to be open from 2:30-9:00 M-TH, 4:00-7:00 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 workdays, etc.

**of Grade)**

**Recording Studio Hours:**

**Monday & Wednesday: 3-5 & 6-9:00 PM \*6-9 hours are control room only as there is a Jazz Band rehearsal in the big room.**

**Tuesday & Thursday: 2:45 – 9:00 PM**

**Friday: 4-7 PM**

**Saturday/Sunday: Noon – 6 PM**

**Recording Projects: IMPORTANT!**

Students from Audio 157 must get the majority of their studio time completed during the 1<sup>st</sup> 7 to 8 weeks of the quarter as the last 3 or 4 weeks are primarily set aside for Audio 156 students.

**Minimum Studio Requirements:** a minimum of 3 meaningful sessions is required of each student. This can be a tracking, or a mixing session.

**Studio Time/Session Limitations:** Students must schedule studio time with the understanding that there are approximately 20 other students also trying to use the studio. Please do not book sessions of more than 4 hours in length without clearing it with the instructor. That being said, studio time will be given on a first come, first serve basis, so scheduling recording/studio time at the beginning of the quarter and pre-planning your quarterly projects is very important.

**Signing up for Studio Time:**

Be sure to put your phone number on the studio calendar. If you are running late, call the studio monitor on duty to let them know your status.

**BC Policies**

**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 over-due, 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.

**MUS 157 Attendance Policy:** Since this course covers many different aspects of audio production including music software, recording hardware, digital musical editing techniques and recording techniques, it is not in the students best interest to miss class. If student is sick or has a family emergency it is ***the students responsibility*** to inform the instructor via e-mail. Any student that misses an in-class quiz, without prior notification, will not be given a make-up opportunity. If a student is given a make-up opportunity, the make-up quiz/exam must occur within 7 days.

**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.