

**MUSC 2286 Internship: Recording Arts Technology, Syllabus Addendum,  
McLennan Community College, Waco, TX**

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**WHAT IS THIS COURSE?**

Practicum in Audio Technology is the laboratory in which sophomore audio students are able to refine their audio recording skills. This class will be concurrent with MUSC 2447 during the third semester, and MUSC 2448 during the fourth semester. During these semesters, students will spend over 380 hours in actual recording and work sessions, operating as a team in the MCC recording studio.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Because of the technical nature of this course, tardiness or missed classes will seriously jeopardize your chances of success. If you experience a true emergency and must miss a class, contact the fine arts office. This is an open lab class, in which students are required to schedule and complete at least 12 hours of audio production/ lab time per week during each semester. Your attendance will affect your grade as follows:

3 tardy = 1 absence

Accumulated absences will result in a proportional lowering of the student's grade.

25% absence or failure to complete weekly lab hours will result in the student being dropped and/or failed, see the MCC official Attendance Policy statement.

**GRADING POLICY:**

A student's grade will be the cumulative total of the following criteria:

- 50% Completion of projects, Performance in the recording sessions, fulfilling weekly lab time requirements, evaluated by the instructor's observation and Project Analyses Criteria:
- 30% Attendance, professional attitude and conduct, evaluated by instructor's observation.
- 20% Completion of live performance reviews, and  
(third semester) Quality of Recording Projects, evaluated by the instructor.  
(fourth semester) Capstone Recording Project, evaluated by faculty.

The grading scale used in this class is:

A=90-100%

B=80-89%

C=70-79%

D=60-69%

F=BELOW 60%

**OFFICE HOURS:**

I will be glad to help you outside of class-time. I have regular office hours posted. Many times I am meeting with someone else in the studio or elsewhere during these hours, so be sure to make an appointment with me.

Check in at <http://www.ranchstudio.com/MccStudents.htm> regularly to have access to all of the forms, syllabi, and other helpful audio information.

## COMPETENCY and OBJECTIVES

The following **competencies** outline the purposes of this course. The **objectives** are the specific activities that we will carry out. All competencies and objectives will integrate previously mastered competencies from the prerequisite and concurrent courses.

**Competency: Develop the necessary skills to meet the requirements of a recording session.**

Objective: Perform numerous studio recording sessions of a wide variety of styles and instrumentation.

Objective: Perform studio recording sessions using analog, digital, and midi recording systems.

Objective: Perform live 2 track recordings using CD, DAW, and dedicated audio recording formats.

*Source: Cumulative knowledge and skills from audio classes \ labs*

*Evaluation: Cumulative project analyses; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate the ability to Produce recordings under defined guidelines.**

Objective: Perform as a producer for numerous studio recording sessions.

*Source: Cumulative knowledge and skills from audio lectures \ labs*

*Evaluation: Cumulative project analyses; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate the ability to engineer recordings under defined guidelines.**

Objective: Perform engineering tasks for numerous studio recording sessions.

Objective: Perform engineering tasks for numerous live 2 track recording sessions.

*Source: Cumulative knowledge and skills from audio lectures \ labs*

*Evaluation: Cumulative project analyses; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate the ability to perform as an assistant engineer.**

Objective: Perform assistant engineering tasks for numerous studio recording sessions.

*Source: Cumulative knowledge and skills from audio lectures \ labs*

*Evaluation: Cumulative project analyses; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate the ability to function as part of a recording team in a studio setting.**

Objective: Perform the functions of recording studio personnel during this semester;

booker, dubber, maintenance, secretary, project analyses, midi tech, hard disk tech, live recording dispatch.

Objective: Perform the jobs and responsibilities assigned in a dependable, courteous, professional, timely manner.

Source: *Cumulative knowledge and skills from audio lectures \ labs*

Evaluation: *Instructor's performance observation; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate professional conduct.**

Objective: Demonstrate regular attendance, promptness, adequate preparation, willingness to volunteer, the ability to deal with difficulties, work with groups, and deal with adversity.

Source: *Skills demonstration.*

Evaluation: *Classroom observation by instructor; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Develop music business networking skills and co-lateral relationships.**

Objective: Practice regular attendance to other artist's live performances, and share your experiences with other music business people. Each student is required to attend and review at least five live performances of MCC students/faculty each semester. You must hand in at least five written reviews of the concerts or performances that you attend. Details are at <http://www.ranchstudio.com/MccStudents.htm>

Source: *Skills demonstration.*

Evaluation: *5 Reviews handed in to instructor; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: Demonstrate ability to produce high-quality Recording Projects**

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to plan and perform "release quality" recordings for faculty member.

Source: *Skills demonstration.*

Evaluation: *Classroom observation by instructor, final product approval by faculty; 80% mastery required*

**Competency: (fourth semester) Capstone Project; assemble an eight minute demo of student's produced recordings including studio recording, 2 track live recording, and additional recordings of student's choice.**

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to integrate multiple audio productions into a high-quality presentation to demonstrate mastery.

Source: *Skills demonstration.*

Evaluation: *By faculty; 80% mastery required*

**YOUR INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

You will be assigned a number of recording sessions that you will be responsible for. You must clear and check your dates and times with the booker, and decide who and what you want to record, plan the sessions, rehearse the performers, complete the plans and paperwork, and produce or co-produce these sessions. You must decide what you want to record, and choose the highest quality performers and material that you can so that your recordings will

sound as good as possible. Your first choice for recording sessions should be original material performed by MCC students and faculty. (You will be graded on these sessions, following the guidelines outlined in the syllabus.)

**BE SURE TO:**

1. Plan and choose your sessions carefully to end up with a good "demo reel".
2. Plan and book your time EARLY.
3. DO NOT CHANGE THE STUDIO CALENDAR! Only the booker is authorized to.
4. Clear the use of MCC music equipment (drums, amps, percussion, etc.) for the times you need them with the fine arts secretary.
5. Completely fill out all session paperwork, and update completely during session. This includes time logs and project logs.
6. Thank your performers and musical acts for being our volunteers for the audio tech program.

Students in the McLennan Community College Music Industry Careers Audio Technology Program are learning to operate Digital Audio Work stations (DAW's), as well as analog devices. They are required to do the majority of their out-of-class work and projects on a DAW capable computer. In order to complete their assignments, they must have access to a DAW capable computer outside of the classroom. The need for a personal computer is required in order to complete the assignments. It is recommended that the DAW audio computer should be dedicated to the audio recording function, and not used for other non-audio tasks, in order to maximize operation reliability and speed.

**Project Analysis Criteria:**

	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	N/A
<b>Recording Session Preparation:</b>							
session planner							
studio layout sheet							
track sheet							
special equipment arrangements							
correct bookings							
adequate pre-session preparation							
<b>Recording Session Procedures.....</b>							
session setup							
equipment maintenance							
mike input selection and placement							
console operation							
recorder operation							
signal level integrity							
use of outboard equipment							
use of EQ							
slate, tuning notes, tones							
track sheet accuracy							
stereo image of mix							
mono compatibility of mix							
overall recording quality							
following plans							
time budget performance							
adaptability to changes							
diplomacy							
problem solving							
communication							
attitude							
post session clean-up							
total average .....							