

Syllabus for Music Engineering

Instructor: Eddie Howard

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Class Time: 1:10-3:05

Web: www.FineArtsCenter.net

Course Description:

- A- Studio setup: Cabling, mic choice and placement for all musicians involved in the session at hand.
- B- Live Recording: Cabling, mic choice/placement and setup in the performance hall for recording recitals, concerts, showcases or other events.
- C- Control Room Operation: Learning all the gear available in the control room as well as the patch bay and routing of all the patchable audio points from/to all 9 rooms tied to the system.
- D- Protocols: Learning to operate and manage Protools software efficiently and correctly including keystroke shortcuts.
- E- Projects: Each student will choose projects for each 9-week period to plan and implement by designated deadlines 2 weeks before the end of each grading period. The assigned music engineering teams will also be responsible for setting up and recording all live events that are to be FAC CDs or audio for DVDs. Each "team" will consist of 2 students assigned for that grading period or longer if needed.

Supplies Needed:

Loose Leaf Notebook Paper

Small 3 Ring Binder

Pen or Pencil

Course Requirements:

Tests (50-100 pts) – There will be 1-2 tests per quarter

Yearly Assignments: Grades for these projects are calculated in the following manner: A completed project is worth a minimum of 60 points. The project is then ranked from 1-10 in four areas – Recording quality, Editing, Sound quality, Professionalism.

Project # 1 Due Oct. 21 – Commercial (100 pts) – You will be required to create, record, edit, mix, master an audio spot for broadcast purpose. You will need a 60 second and 30 second version of the same material. It can be a real or imaginary product.

Project #2 Due Dec. 15 “The History of Recording Technology” – (100 pts) Research and present a 5 page paper (12 pt, printed, single spaced) on “The History of Recording Technology” from the early beginnings. You can add pics/prints if you like.

Project #3 Due Mar. 10 – Music for a music video (100 pts) It will be 1 song, minimum of 2 minutes in length with at least 5 different instruments and 2 voices.

Project #4 Due May 4 – Commercial #2 (100 pts) – This differs from #1 in that it must be for a household product such as clothing, beverages, cleaning supplies, etc. You will need a 60 sec/ 30 sec./ 10 sec and a 60 second “Donut.” (Donut – Uses the

music bed from the 60 full version but only has the sales pitch or verbal at 5 seconds of the beginning and 5 seconds of the ending.)

Weekly Assignments:

Monday – Biographies (5pts) – You must bring in a short biography about someone who has made an impact on the music industry.

Friday – You must pitch an idea to the class for an engineering project. You must have the idea written down (3-5 sentences describing) and kept in your notebook.

Notebooks (50 pts per quarter) – You must keep and maintain a notebook, that will contain your biographies, proposals, Syllabus and any other material used during the year. I will check each notebook at the end of each quarter to be graded.

I would recommend new students not purchase recording software until they have spent time becoming familiar with the Protools software and studio equipment. Students will be assigned teams in pairs. Each team will have an assigned schedule to record Fine Arts Center Recitals and will be printed on the student schedule. Students need to make arrangements to be at these Recital recordings on time in proper dress.