

Department of Music

MP-205 Recording Techniques II: Studio Operation

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1 class hour, 5 laboratory hours, 3 credits; Prerequisites: MP-103 completed with a grade of C or better

An advanced course requiring the application of skills developed in MP103. Students must organize, plan, set-up and engineer a variety of multi-track recording and mixdown sessions in the QCC Recording Studio or on location elsewhere on campus. Emphasis on solving studio-related problems and the development of appropriate engineer/recording artist communication techniques.

This is a required senior-level course in the Music Production curriculum

Curricular Objectives:

- Students will master knowledge, techniques, methods and skills of the music production industry.
- Students will demonstrate proficiency in the use of industrial quality analog and digital hardware and software in the field of music production.
- Students will identify, analyze and solve technical problems that impede realizations of music production.
- Students will demonstrate awareness of and competence with music production environments and protocols.
- Students will communicate effectively orally and in writing using relevant media and will function effectively on teams.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use basic musicianship skills to create analog and digital realizations of music production in recordings and in live performance.

General Education Objectives:

Students will:

- Communicate effectively through written and oral forms
- Use analytical reasoning to identify issues or problems and evaluate evidence in order to make informed decisions.
- Reason quantitatively as required in various fields of interest and in everyday life
- Apply information management and digital technology skills useful for academic research and lifelong learning

Course Objectives:

Students will:

- use critical thinking skills solving specific problems in recording sessions
- produce assignments and projects satisfying core competencies with analogue mixers, digital control surfaces and software functioning as multi-track recorders.
- be assessed weekly through class participation demonstrating equipment operation techniques and at the end of the semester through a major recording session and project report.

- learn methods and techniques of recording that will prepare them to work in a modern recording studio.
- Students achieving a grade of at least a B may be recommended for MP900 Cooperative Education Internship in Music Production)

Students successfully completing MP205 will demonstrate

- proficiency in the use of analog and digital recording technology principles to **record audio signals from acoustic and/or electronic sources.**
- proficiency in the use of analog and digital recording technology principles to **mix audio from analog or digital sources.**
- understanding of implications of **gain stages** of analog consoles and related software.
- an understanding of **signal flow** within analog and digital music technologies.
- the ability to use analog and digital technology principles to provide **talkback** and **headphone cue mixes** to musicians during recording sessions.
- the ability to use **patch bay configurations** for analog equipment connections.
- knowledge of principles and basic competency in the **operation of analog signal processing equipment and/or software plugins** to enhance the qualities of sound.
- competency in session **planning, organization, tracking and production methods.**
- basic competency in the **evaluation of acoustic environments** for the purpose of planning successful recordings.
- basic competency in the **selection and placement of microphones** in recording sessions.
- knowledge and use of music technology **terminology** to communicate with other students in order to efficiently accomplish music production tasks.
- awareness and understanding of interpersonal **communication** and **behavioral styles** that are appropriate among engineers, producers and musicians.
- **critical thinking ability to solve problems** that arise during the recording or mixdown process of music production.
- **the ability to import and export digital audio file types between software applications.**

Grading

Class Participation/Attitude:	10%
Group Project (Practical):	10%
Group Project (Written):	10%
Quizzes:	10%
Final Exam (Practical):	50%
Final Exam (Written):	10%

Attendance:

Attendance of this class is not optional. Lateness is not tolerated: coming to class more than 20 minutes late will be considered an absence. According to QCC guidelines, missing more than 15% of a class can result in a failing grade, regardless of how well the student is actually doing. It is highly recommended that you obtain notes from other students if you are absent or late as I do not give private lessons.

Creativity and initiative are rewarded and encouraged. Simply fulfilling the minimum requirements of an assignment will result in a C grade.

REQUIRED:

You will need a pair of headphones with a 1/4" -> 1/8" **adapter** at **EVERY SESSION** of the class. An adapter can be purchased at any Radio Shack store - be sure that it is Stereo-to-Stereo.

YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN HEADPHONES AND ADAPTER TO EVERY CLASS!

No – you can't borrow mine

YOU will be **REQUIRED** to attend some Music Department events in the role of video or audio recording as part of your participation in this class. Your participation (or lack thereof) will affect your final grade.

YOU WILL NEED: a USB3 thumb drive or removable hard drive with at least 32 GB capacity. SanDisk Extreme is recommended.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic honesty is taken extremely seriously and is expected of all students. All assignments must be the original work of the student. All questions or concerns regarding ethical conduct should be brought to the course instructor. "It is the official policy of the College that all acts or attempted acts that are violations of academic integrity be reported to the Office of Student Affairs. At the faculty member's discretion and with the concurrence of the student or students involved, some cases, though reported to the OSA may be resolved within the confines of the course and department. The instructor has the authority to adjust the offender's grades as deemed appropriate, including assigning an F to the assignment or exercise or, in more serious cases, an F to the student for the entire course."

– From the QCC Academic Integrity Policy 2/14/2005.

Additional Considerations:

- Cheating or falsely representing someone else's work as your own may result in an automatic F for the course
- Cell Phone use is not permitted in class. Use of a cell phone during an exam or quiz is prohibited
- Leaving the room during an exam/quiz is not permitted and will result in a zero for the exam/quiz.
- Eating and drinking are not allowed at any time in the classroom.

Course Outline (subject to change)

Week 1: Studio orientation, review of microphone basics, cable management, stand etiquette, roles of people in the recording studio environment

Week 2: Recording drums – from 1 mic to 16; headphone mixes & talkback basics, session planning; signal flow in the digital studio

Week 3: Recording acoustic piano; use of side chain reverb; importance of recall sheets

Week 4: Signal flow in the Analog environment I: Tracking and monitoring; headphone mixes

Week 5: Signal flow in the Analog environment II: Mixdown, stems, and effects

Week 6: Recording Acoustic & Electric guitar; overdubbing basics

Week 7: Recording Vocals; Punch-in basics

Week 8: Live Session: Group 1

Week 9: Live Session: Group 2

Week 10: Live Session: Group 3

Week 11: Live Session: Guest artist

Week 12: Mixing Basics I – cleaning up & editing, use of EQ & compression

Week 13: Mixing Basics II – Time-based effects; Master Buss processing

Week 14: Present Final Projects

Week 15: Final Exam