MUSC-167R-01

Recording Workshop

Meetings Times: M W 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM

Location: Recording Studio, Music Center Room 191

Instructor: Rodrigo Diaz Barriga Lopez

Contact: rdiazbar@ucsc.edu

  831-600-6931

Office Hours: Th 10:00 AM - 01:00 PM

Class Dates: July 31 - August 30

Important Dates

- Add/Swap - Thursday, August 3
- Drop - Monday, August 7 (tuition reversed)
- Request "W" Grade - Sunday, August 20 (no tuition reversal)
- Change Grade Option - Sunday, August 27

Course Information

In this course, you will learn aspects of recording through hands-on experience and the analysis of existing recordings. We will cover the fundamentals of microphone and console operation and recording techniques, mixing, and mastering. Students will be able to choose from a number of creative assignments to work on as their final project or propose their own.

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop a general understanding of the physical behavior of sound and learn how to identify and operate different types of microphones and recording equipment. Through their practical application in the studio, they will learn a variety of recording techniques and methods. At the end of the course, students will work on a final project, for which they must demonstrate their knowledge by developing an approach best suited to their own creative goals.

Required Materials

All course software can be accessed in the studio computers which will be available to students enrolled in this class. Participants may work on their own computers and use whichever DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) is available to them. For purposes of this course, we will be using **Reaper**, a free software which you can download from https://www.reaper.fm/download.php.

Grading Policy

Grading for this class will be based on a Complete/Incomplete criteria system. For every assignment, students will be required to submit a list of deliverables which will be outlined in the instructions. This will typically include a session file and a folder containing the audio files used in the session. If all files are uploaded, students will receive a Complete grade, otherwise the assignment will be graded as Incomplete.

Assignments will be due at the beginning of the next week, right before the start of class each Monday.

For all other purposes, the class will be focused on fostering conversation between all participants, facilitating a space for group learning where we can all provide useful feedback to our peers. Students will be encouraged to think creatively and explore different ways to realize their objectives.

Percentages and Scale

Assignment	Percentage
Weekly Forums	20%
Recording Assignment 1	20%
Recording Assignment 2	20%
Foley Assignment Part 1	20%
Foley Assignment Part 2	20%
Total	100%
Final Project (Bonus)	10%

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90 - 100%
B	80 - 89%
C	70 - 79%
D	60 - 69%
E	50 - 59%
F	0 - 49%

Late Work

Because this is a summer class and there is only so much time available, it is highly encouraged that you manage your time wisely and aim to submit all work by the time it's due. Not submitting a week's work would hinder your progress in class. For these reasons, students will have until Wednesday at midnight to submit late assignments; a 5 percent penalty will be accumulated for each day past the due date. In the case of an extraordinary situation, students should get in contact with the instructor as soon as possible.

Recording Assignments

Each week, there will be a recording assignment following in-class exercises. For each of these assignments, the students will submit the following contained in a **google drive folder**:

a) a session file

b) a folder containing the audio files

c) a rough mix of the recording as a bounced audio file

d) a stage plot of the recording showing the positioning of the performers and the microphones

e) an input list

f) a short write up describing the type of ensemble or instrumentation that was recorded, the conditions under which the recording was done, how the instruments were positioned during the recording and why, and choice of microphones and reasoning behind these choices. Also included should be any challenges students might have faced during the recording and how these were overcome.

In order to facilitate class discussion and peer-to-peer feedback, assignments will be submitted via a forum, where students will post their **drive links** along with a **short description** of what they did.

Students should also **respond to at least two posts each week**, although commenting on as many posts as possible or desired is encouraged.

Weekly Forum

Each week, two students will individually post and lead a conversation about a topic recording related. This may involve a song, album, a Youtube video, an article, etc. The focus should be on approaches to recording, miking techniques, or something about gear. Students should include any information they know about the material, what they find interesting about it, things they might have learned, and/or any open questions they might want to bring up.

Students should **respond to at least two posts** for each forum. Those responsible to post on a particular week will only have to respond to **one other post**.

Final Project

For the final assignment, students will develop a recording project of their own. This project is meant to be creative and exploratory. Students are encouraged to apply the techniques learned in class as well as to experiment with original approaches.

The project may fall into any of the following categories: solo or group instrumental recording, voice acting, foley/sound design, or a combination of these. Students may suggest ideas not included in this list to be reviewed and approved by the instructor.

In addition to the session and audio files, students will need to submit an input list, stage plot, and a short write up, one or two pages long, describing the goals and realization of the project as well as any challenges they might have encountered and how they resolved them.

Final projects may be done individually or in groups, in which case a more substantial amount of work must be demonstrated.

Auxiliary Course Materials

Three main sources will be used as complementary material in this course. Tom Lubin's book *Getting Great Sounds: The Microphone Book* published by Cengage Learning, Peter Elsea's Technical Essay's from the UCSC's Electronic Music Studios [website](#) and sound engineer Ryan Earnhardt's educational videos from the *Creative Sound Lab* [YouTube Channel](#).

Course Schedule

Week 1

Class 1 - Monday July 31st
- Class Introduction
- Introduction to Recording
- Physics of Sound (General overview)
- Studio Tour
- Introduction to Soundboard

Class 2 - Wednesday August 2nd
- Types Microphones
- Recording Session – *Voice and acoustic guitar*
Assignment:
a) Record one instrument with at least two microphones, or with one microphone in at least two different positions each time.
    or
b) Record one or two performers playing an acoustic guitar or a similar instrument and singing in the same room.

Week 2

Class 3 - Monday August 7th
- Introduction to Stereo Miking
- Recording Session – *Band*

<u>Class 4 - Wednesday August 9th</u>

- Editing & Mixing w/recordings we've made so far

Assignment:

Record two to three instruments.

Week 3

<u>Class 5 - Monday August 14th</u>
- Stereo Miking (continuation)
- Recording – *Piano & wind instruments*
- Capturing the Room

<u>Class 6 - Wednesday August 16th</u>
- Foley Pt 1: Rooms and Voiceover

Assignment:

Foley Project Pt. 1

Week 4

<u>Class 7 - Monday August 21st</u>
- Foley Pt 2: Sound design & effects

<u>Class 8 - Wednesday August 23rd</u>
- Recording Session

Assignment:

Foley Project Pt. 2

Week 5

<u>Class 9 - Monday August 28th</u>
- Final Project Check-In

<u>Class 10 - Wednesday August 30th</u>
- Mastering

Assignment:

- Final Project Due Sept. 1

Accessibility

UC Santa Cruz is committed to creating an academic environment that supports its diverse student body. If you are a student with a disability who requires accommodations to achieve equal access in this course, please affiliate with the DRC. I encourage all students to benefit from learning more about DRC services to contact DRC by phone at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For students already affiliated, make sure that you have requested Academic Access Letters, where you intend to use accommodations. You can also request to meet privately with me during office hours or by appointment, as soon as possible. I would like us to discuss how we can implement your accommodations in this course to ensure your access and full engagement in this course.

Title IX/Care advisory

UC Santa Cruz is committed to providing a safe learning environment that is free of all forms of gender discrimination and sexual harassment, which are explicitly prohibited under Title IX. If you have experienced any form of sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, know that you are not alone. The Title IX Office, the Campus Advocacy, Resources & Education (CARE) office, and Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) are all resources that you can rely on for support.

Please be aware that if you tell me about a situation involving Title IX misconduct, I am required to share this information with the Title IX Coordinator. This reporting responsibility also applies to course TAs and tutors (as well to all UCSC employees who are not designated as "confidential" employees, which is a special designation granted to counselors and CARE advocates). Although I have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. The goal is to make sure that you are aware of the range of options available to you and that you have access to the resources you need.

Confidential resources are available through CARE. Confidentiality means CARE advocates will not share any information with Title IX, the police, parents, or anyone else without explicit permission. CARE advocates are trained to support you in understanding your rights and options, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more. You can contact CARE at (831) 502-2273 or care@ucsc.edu.

In addition to CARE, these resources are available to you:
- If you need help figuring out what resources you or someone else might need, visit the Sexual Violence Prevention & Response (SAFE) website, which provides information and resources for different situations.
- Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide confidential counseling support. Call them at (831) 459-2628.

- You can report gender discrimination and sexual harassment and violence directly to the University's Title IX Office by calling (831) 459-2462 or by using their online reporting tool.
- Reports to law enforcement can be made to the UC Police Department, (831) 459-2231 ext. 1.
- For emergencies, call 911.