

Course Syllabus

MUSC 2286

Internship: Recording Arts Technology

**McLennan Community College
Waco, TX**

Revised 08-09

MUSC 2286 Practicum

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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. 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 will result in the student being dropped and/or failed, see the MCC official Attendance Policy statement at end of this syllabus.

GRADING POLICY:

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

50% Performance in the recording sessions, evaluated by the Project Analyses Criteria:

30% Attendance, professional attitude and conduct, evaluated by instructor's observation.

20% (third semester) Final Recording Project, evaluated by the Project Analyses Criteria.
(fourth semester) Capstone Recording Project, evaluated by faculty panel.

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 classtime. I have regular office hours posted outside of my office. 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 or leave a message for me with the secretary in the PAC office.

Disabilities/ADA

In accordance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the regulations published by the United States Department of Justice 28 C.F.R. 35.107(a), MCC's designated ADA co-coordinators, Dr. Johnette McKown, Executive Vice President and Dr. Lynn Abernathy, Vice President, Student Services shall be responsible for coordinating the

College's efforts to comply with and carry out its responsibilities under ADA. Students with disabilities requiring physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact Marc Sweatt, Disability Specialist, at 299-8122 or msweatt@mclennan.edu.

Project Analysis Criteria:

	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	N/A
Recording Session Preparation:							
session planner							
studio layout sheet							
track sheet							
special equipment arrangements							
correct bookings							
adequate pre-session preparation							
Recording Session Procedures.....							
session setup							
equipment maintenance							
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.....							

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 perform as a tape transport operator.

Objective: Perform tape transport 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 function of one of these 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: (third semester) Perform Final Recording Project

Objective: Demonstrate the ability to plan and perform a "release quality" recording 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 a 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 mixes into a working master.

Source: Skills demonstration.

Evaluation: By faculty panel; 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.)

By the end of the fourth semester, you must have a finished master of at least: 1 faculty recording, 1 student band recording, 1 song demo recording, 1 performance demo recording, 1 live stereo recording. In addition, you may record other sessions that you have allotted time for. On other student's sessions you may be an observer, function as engineer, assistant engineer, tape transport operator, or work on editing or midi preproduction for upcoming sessions.

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 WRITE ON 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 prior to, and update completely during session. This includes client/producer session contracts!
6. Thank your performers and musical acts for being our volunteers for the audio tech program.

SCANS COMPETENCIES: All Students must master the following competencies:
Mastery will be demonstrated by in class recording sessions, presentations and reports;
performances, and/or written assignments and exams.

RESOURCES

- R1: Allocates Time – demonstrated by preparation. Scheduling recording sessions and using the time properly to prepare assigned tasks to required standards.
- R2: Allocates Money – students will learn how to develop budgets for recording projects
- R3: Allocates resources and Facility Resources – students will learn how to plan Recording sessions using appropriate equipment and media.
- R4: allocates Human Resources – students will learn how to run recording sessions and how to interact with individual performing artists and of performing ensembles.

INFORMATION

- IF1: Acquires & Evaluates Information- student will gather and evaluate information according to instructions using textbooks and library resources
- IF2: Organizes & Maintains Information- student will organize and maintain information according to instructions given by the instructor
- IF3: Interprets & Communicates Information – student will interpret information and communicate according to instructions
- IF4: Uses Computers to process information: use computers in the recording studio to record performances

INTERPERSONAL

- IP1: Participates as a member of a team – students will learn how to function as a member of recording studio team.
- IP2: Teaching Others – students will be responsible for presenting in-class demonstrations.
- IP3: Serves Clients/Customer – Students will learn how to meet the needs of; and how to evaluate the expectations of industry clients and customers
- IP4: Exercises Leadership – students will learn how to be team leaders in in-class simulations and team activities
- IP5: Negotiates to arrive at a decision – students will learn how to negotiate contracts and interpersonal situations.

SYSTEMS

- S1: Understands systems – students will demonstrate the systematic inter-relationships of the equipment in the recording studio.
- S2: Monitors & Corrects Systems – students will learn how to monitor the equipment used during a recording session and how to correct problems
- S3: Improves & Designs Systems - Students will demonstrate mastery by producing recordings that will reflect understanding of operating system of the recording studio. Students are also expected to monitors the process and improve the process at every opportunity.

TECHNOLOGY

- T1: Selects Technology –students will learn to select correct technology for sessions
- T2: Applies Technology – Students will learn to select and apply the appropriate technology to performance requirements both when planning performances and during performances
- T3: Maintain & Troubleshoot Technology – students will learn to set-up complete staging of performance ensemble and how to troubleshoot related problems.