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**Sound Recording 3**

MUM 4665

3 credits

Class location: Studio A

Syllabus for Fall 2018

**Instructor:**

Matt Baltrucki

Office: AL - 233

Classroom/Lecture location: TBD

Class Time: TBA

Office hours: TBD

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**Pre-Requisites:**

MUM4664-Sound Recording II

Permission of Instructor

**Course Description:**

An advanced look at genre-based recording aesthetics pertinent to the prominent styles of contemporary music production. Stylistically based technical and artistic choices for genres of Popular music, Rock, EDM, Jazz and Acoustic music will be given a critical analysis from a theoretical and practical level. Students will focus primarily on Mixing and Mastering aesthetics as well as in-studio production techniques for project completion. Advanced critical and technical ear training activities will solidify the students understand of important sonic attributes of the recorded medium. Additionally, students will put together a portfolio of work for future use as industry professionals. This course will act as a primer for Commercial Music Technology track students before they begin work on their Senior Research Project.

**Course Objectives:**

1) Mastery of the critical processes involved in a wide array of genre-based music production

2) Experience using professional level tools and methodologies for professional mixing and mastering work as well as technical ear training development.

3) Creation of a demo reel for future opportunities outside of the class.

4.) Preparation for Senior Research project

**Required text:**

Izhaki, Roey. Mixing Audio: Concepts, Practices and Tools (2nd edition). Focal Press, 2008.

**Course Evaluation:**

This course is designed as a project driven class. Students will be introduced weekly to new concepts or methods and be assessed on satisfactory completion of nine weekly projects (each graded on a 10-point scale), as well as a final project. The final project will include: 1) the preparation of a portfolio containing all nine projects (20 points possible); and, 2) a verbal PowerPoint presentation describing the workflow concepts and technical approaches employed in the semester’s projects (50 points possible). Some of the projects will be team-efforts and as such attendance is mandatory. Failure to attend class more than three times will result in an automatic F for the semester. Late work will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor. Refer to list below for assignment specifics. All assignments are due a week from the assigned date unless otherwise specified.

**Grading Scale (based on the percentages listed below)**:

95-100=A

90-94=A-

87-89=B+

84-86=B

80-83=B-

77-79=C+

74-76=C

70-73=C-

67-69=D+

64-66=D

60-63=D-

below 60 =F

**Incomplete Policy:**

Incompletes will be given at the discretion of the instructor and **only in the case of extreme emergency or illness situations.** Such emergencies include illness or death inthe immediate family and must be documented. Outside employment or a heavy class scheduleare not acceptable reasons for incompletes. It is the student’s responsibility to consult with theinstructor if an incomplete is necessary. Incompletes can be made up by arrangement with the instructor and must be completed within one year.

**Make up/ Late Work:**

Please see instructor concerning makeup exams and late work.

No homework assignments or late work will be accepted after the due date **without permission** of the instructor. Makeup exams are only available upon instructor’s approval.

**Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**

*Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high-quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001,* [*http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001\_Code\_of\_Academic\_Integrity.pdf*](http://www.fau.edu/ctl/4.001_Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf)

**Students with Disabilities:**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie, and Jupiter, however, disability services are available for students on all campuses.*

**Attendance Policy Statement:**

*Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.*

**Religious Holiday Accommodations:**

* *In accordance with rules of the Florida Board of Education and Florida law, students have the right to reasonable accommodations from the University in order to observe religious practices and beliefs with regard to admissions, registration, class attendance, and the scheduling of examinations and work assignments.*
* *Students who wish to be excused from course work, class activities, or examinations must notify the instructor in advance of their intention to participate in religious observation and request an excused absence. The instructor will provide a reasonable opportunity to make up such excused absences.*
* *Any student who feels aggrieved regarding religious accommodations may present a grievance to the director of Equal Opportunity Programs. Any such grievances will follow Florida Atlantic University’s established grievance procedure regarding alleged discrimination.*

**Credit and Time Requirements**

*Federal regulations, FAU and our accrediting body the National Association of Schools of Music have determined the following formula to represent the amount of work represented per credit hour: for each credit hour in a class, the combined contact hours in class and out-of-class student work should equal three hours. In the cases of applied music lessons, each individual area will provide specific out-of-class expectations that will lead to student success in the applied lesson. Large ensembles may meet additional hours beyond this formula to accommodate the rigors of the repertoire scheduled for performances.*

**Course Schedule**

**Topics Covered and Assignments By Week**

**Week 1: Introduction to Sound Recording 3**

**Week 2: Critical and Technical Ear Training (t**utorial)

**Week 3: ProTools Shortcut tutorial and session organization** (10 points)

SR3\_01: Prepare a session for mixing from provided files

**Week 4: Pop music Aesthetics and Critical Analysis**

SR3\_02: Mix a pop track using methods discussed in class (10 points)

**Week 5: Rock music Aesthetics and Critical Analysis** (10 points)

SR3\_03: Mix a Rock track using methods discussed in class

**Week 6: Electronic Music Production** (10 points)

SR3\_04: Mix an EDM track employing multiple aesthetically appropriate technologies. Additional tracks must be added to the production that serve the provided tracks musically and sonically

**Week 7: Jazz Production and Aesthetics** (10 points)

SR3\_05: Edit and Mix provided Jazz stems

**Week 8: Classical music editing and post-production** (10 points)

SR3\_06: Edit and mix multi-track classical session provided

**Week 9: Technical Ear Training: Equalization, Compression characteristics** (10 points)

SR\_07: Sound-alike cover project (Due three weeks from assigned date)

**Week 10: Tools for Mastering for Pop/Rock music (t**utorial)

**Week 11: Mastering Jazz/ Classical and disparate genre mastering** (10 points).

SR3\_08: Master provided mixed genre full length album of provided tracks. Emphasis on track sequence and delivery specifications

**Weeks 12 & 13: Presentation of sound-alike final mixes** (10 points)

Each student will choose from a pre-selected list a commercial recording to sonically reproduce in its entirety. The project must include every instrument from the original recording performed at the same tempo and in the same key as the original. This project is a high-level technical ear training exercise and requires immense use of careful critical listening to ensure the material recorded is sonically as close as possible to the original recording. Research should be done into the production methods employed by the original Producer and Engineer to maximize chance of sonic similarity.

**Week 14: Putting together a professional demo reel (t**utorial)

**Final Exam: 30-Minute Student Presentations** (50 points)

Each student will prepare a 20-30-minute presentation on their use of methodologies and techniques learned throughout the semester. The presentation should include a PowerPoint or other graphic representation of schematic diagrams of recording set-ups, mixing workflows and advanced methods employed through the production process of various projects throughout the semester.

***All projects are due one week after they are assigned unless otherwise specified***