

MUIN 1561 - Recording Workshop

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42817,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Bryan Helsel

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Music Education, Kent State University

Master's, Piano Performance, Duquesne University

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Course Description

1561. Recording Workshop. Introduction to the music recording process and the recording studio. An overview of music recording grounded in history and the principles of acoustics. An exploration of analog and digital technology involved in music recording. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
	No reading		

Online article readings will be posted in Blackboard, and they are linked in the syllabus.

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Day	Date	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
Mon	8/24		Getting to know each other. Getting to know the syllabus. Getting to know the studio and lab.. Exploration of sound.	Be prepared to share something cool about you, and your goals for this class and for recording in general. I'd like to know your talents, passions, prior knowledge of music tech, and what drew you to choose this major.
Wed	8/26		Science of sound and introduction to ProTools. Gainstaging and record yourself counting to ten	Bring your notebook and be ready to get used to keyboard shortcuts and working quickly to make edits.
Mon	8/31		Navigation in ProTools, placement of markers, different tools and editing modes, crossfades and fades in mono editing environments.	If not completed in class Wednesday, have the recording of yourself counting to ten completed and ready to engage in some editing.

Wed	9/2		Crossfades, editing in stereo. Demonstrate how minor project #1 can apply to musical settings. Set up and begin work on stereo editing project. How to bounce audio and upload to blackboard. Create rubric for grading project.	
Mon	9/7		Labor Day, no class	
Wed	9/9	Read handout (Home Recording Basics) linked on blackboard	Lecture class: What is digital audio verse analog audio? Explanation of sample and bit rates, definitions, uses, media, and how to benefit from both.	Due: Minor Project #1
Mon	9/14		• Present Minor Project # 1 Demonstrate Stereo editing project in ProTools Using Logic to catch up to what we know in ProTools. Understanding its tools, editing procedures and layout. Demonstrate stereo editing project in Logic.	
Wed	9/16		More fundamentals of Logic, including: Time to explore loops and software instrument sounds. Design rubric for stereo editing project. Peer review time on stereo editing project.	
Mon	9/21	Read weblink on EQ	Answer questions on stereo editing project. Introduction to EQ (equalization)	Due: Stereo editing project
Wed	9/23		Present Stereo editing project Working with automation in ProTools and Logic, including how you can automate parameters of EQ	
Mon	9/28		Reminder of writing assignment due Wednesday. How to compile soundscape for upcoming project due Wednesday. How to mix in a compelling way, leaving room for frequencies across the stereo field.	
Wed	9/30	Read weblink on reverb	Reminder about article summary. Working with reverb. Using aux sends and bus routing. Other ways to create compelling sounds for soundscape due next class. Additional uses for bussing (mix bus) Folders and organizational structure	Due: Article summary # 1
Mon	10/5		Design rubric for Soundscape project. Present article summary projects. Presentations will be brief summaries allowing some time for Q&A from the class. Working with loops in Logic and BandLab	Due: Soundscape Project
Wed	10/7		Present Soundscape project With any remaining time, demonstrate the EQ project	
Mon	10/12		Science of microphones and some experimentation with microphones.	
Wed	10/14	Read weblink on compression	First, we'll record some audio that we can use for compression demonstration. Then, go over reading, and put it to practical use as we work with the recording we made. Review EQ for project due Monday.	
Mon	10/19		Design rubric for EQ project. Explanation of loop project. How to create loops out of things that weren't already loops. Basic loop design using Ableton.	Due: EQ project

Wed	10/21		Present EQ projects With any additional time, demonstrate the loop project.	
Mon	10/26		Catch up if behind, spend class time working on loop project so that its content is ready for discussions about mixing. Peer review time on loop project	Create a BandLab account
Wed	10/28	Read weblink on mixing	Different ways to approach mixing for music.	
Mon	11/2		Design rubric for loop project. How to record live on-location in stereo for concerts, recitals, etc.	Loop project due
Wed	11/4		Present loop project. Practice setting up using YSU equipment for on-location recording. Think about which of the options you'd like to use for your on-location project for mixdown. There will be several loaded to blackboard by this point in time.	Due: Article summary #2
Mon	11/9		Present Article summary briefly in a confident, compelling way, allowing for Q&A to follow. Demonstration of procedures for efficiently mixing down on-location projects. We will use both ProTools and Logic	
Wed	11/11		No class – Veterans Day	
Mon	11/16	Read handout on The Human Ear, linked on Blackboard	Lecture lesson: The human ear and its impact on mixing music.	
Wed	11/18		Design rubric for on-location project. Download the stems that you'll use for your mix project and begin to set up that mix.	Due: on-location project
Mon	11/23		What to do with the drums? Gate, compression, and other ways to get the drums to shine in the mix.	
Wed	11/25		Thanksgiving break, no class	
Mon	11/30		Design rubric for large mix project Go over take home final Make plans for continuing education, questions about topics we did not cover, and how they'll be addressed in the curriculum to follow. With remaining time, peer review on mix before turning it in.	Due: Large-scale mix
Wed	12/2		Present mix project Reminder of final and procedures for turning it in.	
Wed	12/9		Turn in Take Home Final by this date	Due: Take Home Final

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.