

MUIN 2662 - Live Sound Production

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 42818,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Bryan Helsel

Email: bhelsel@ysu.edu

Public Instructor Information

Professor: Dr. Bryan Helsel

Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D., Music Education, Kent State University

Master's, Piano Performance, Duquesne University

Bachelor's, Music Education – vocal; Piano Performance, Westminster College

Office: Bliss Hall, Room 3035

Phone: (330) 941-3639 office

(330) 941-2237 studio

Course Description

2662. Live Sound Production. This course prepares students for how to configure, operate, and optimize live sound systems in order to amplify an ensemble of musicians in a variety of indoor and outdoor event productions. Prereq.: MUIN 1561 or permission of instructor. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Great live sound: A practical guide for every sound tech	James Wasem	0996642323

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
Tue	8/25		Getting to know each other. Getting to know the syllabus. Introduction to Live Sound	Please share something cool about you with me and the class. I'd like to know your talents, passions, prior knowledge of music tech, and what drew you to choose this major or this class.
Thu	8/27	Read from the Foreward to the end of chapter 2 (pg. 18)	Inputs, outputs and audio sources Understanding equipment Class scavenger hunt	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	9/1	Read chapters 5 & 6 (yes we jumped ahead) pp 39-65.	Discussion based on student questions and closer examination of our loudspeakers. Take some time to complete this form for our guitar center field trip. If you are driving, please complete this form.	Discussion questions due before class.

Thu	9/3	Read chapters 3 & 4 (yes we jumped back)	Discussion based on student questions and closer look at amps that we have, their power, their uses and their features	Discussion questions due before class. Field Trip paperwork due
Tue	9/8	Read chapters 7 & 8	Discussion based on student questions, and an in-depth look at our SSL origin console, as well as external mixers that we have, which will be on display in sections of the classroom.	Discussion questions due before class.
Thu	9/10		Field trip to Guitar Center in Boardman. Car pool and maybe have lunch together somewhere after. Be sure to complete the university requirements for field trips listed on Blackboard as an assignment due.	Identify as many pieces of equipment as you can that pertain to live sound. Talk to the sales staff about live sound gear. Make a budget for an imaginary live sound company that you might create. Identify what you would buy, why you need it, and what it costs. We'll present these next class.
Tue	9/15		Presentations of everyone's budget.	Due: Report from Guitar Center, your budget.
Thu	9/17	Read Chapters 11 & 12	Using student discussion questions, discuss aspects of the soundcheck and mixing to an open room verses full house. Time permitting, do a soundcheck.	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	9/22	Read chapters 9 & 10	Discuss the chapters briefly based on student questions. Design a soundcheck situation with YSU equipment. Take a look at the digital mixer that we have.	Discussion questions due before class.
Thu	9/24	Read chapters 25, 26, 27 on feedback	Discussion questions, then if time, set up some equipment and cause, then fix some feedback.	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	9/29		Let's dedicate this whole class to feedback and practicing with it based on our previous reading.	Field trip paperwork is due
Thu	10/1	Read chapters 13-14	Discuss the reading, continued work with feedback, and apply that setup to mixing for monitors and in headphones.	Discussion questions due before class. Prepare questions to ask on-site sound techs.
Tue	10/6		Field trip to Stambaugh. We'll walk over together, or transport yourself. There, we'll see the venue and chat with the live sound techs. Have some questions prepared for a Q&A session that we'll have with them.	Prepare some questions for the live sound engineers at Stambaugh.
Thu	10/8		Tour of Ford Theater and the Behringer X-32 console there. Information about how you can help run sound (and lights) for their shows and get paid to do it.	Article summary # 1 due
Tue	10/13	Read chapter 15 and 16, Mixing for Mains and Portable Sound Systems	Begin with a discussion of what we gained from visiting Stambaugh and Ford Theater. Present article summary Discussion questions... Then, consider different set-ups in our room from mono to other approaches. Listen to the differences and determine the best approach for you and for the room.	Discussion questions due before class.
Thu	10/15	Read chapter 17	This is a really short chapter, but we'll dedicate the class to practicing live-streaming some audio	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	10/20	Read chapter 18	Another short chapter, and then continued work with livestreaming.	Discussion questions due before class.
Thu	10/22	Read section 4, pg. 151 through chapters 19, 20, 21, and 22 (pp 151-168)	Discussion of EQ and a look at how it's done on the SSL origin and in software	Discussion questions due before class.

Tue	10/27		Practice with EQ, challenges for everyone with pre-recorded simulated live-sound music. Students will rotate between practice on the SSL console and on two other EQ stations that will be set up in the classroom.	
Thu	10/29	Read chapters 23 and 24 (pp 169-176)	Reading discussion and some EQ practice.	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	11/3		Go over live sound plan assignment. Incorporate EQ into a planning session and a practice session for Live mix concert.	Receive email from client for Live Sound Plan assignment. Get working on this!
Thu	11/5	Read section 6, chapters 28, 29, and 30 (pp 195-206)	Discussion followed by practice mixing voice and choir	Discussion questions due before class.
Tue	11/10		Rehearsal for Live sound concert – to the degree that a rehearsal is possible without necessary every performer being available.	
Thu	11/12	Read chapter 31	There is a ton of information in this chapter, which we'll review quickly and then try some things with as many of these instruments as we can. This will continue next class and onward.	Discussion questions due before class. Article Summary #2 due
Tue	11/17		Present article summary. Continue exploring the above concepts instrument by instrument. Any necessary planning or practice for next week's concert.	
Thu	11/19	Read chapter 32 and 33	After discussing text, set up some wireless mics and learn how to connect them to the mixer.	Discussion questions due before class. Live sound Plan due today.
Tue	11/24	Read section 7, chapters 34, 35, 36, 37	Present live sound plan to class. Fun with some of these hacks. What's in your survival sanity kit? Cable tester, discussion of soldering. Prep for tonight's concert	Discussion questions due before class. Live sound Concert tonight
Thu	11/26		Thanksgiving Break	
Tue	12/1		No class today since you had evening concert responsibilities last Tuesday	
Thu	12/3		Go over the take home final Additional practice related to chapter 31 and other necessary wrap-up items.	Journal of Readings and Discoveries Due
Tue	12/8		Turn in take-home final by Wednesday, 12/9	
Thu	12/10		Turn in take-home final by Wednesday, 12/9	

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