

MUS 3738b: Digital-Audio Engineering

Winter 2024

Jay Hodgson (jhodgs5@uwo.ca).

Course Description: Advanced audio-engineering technique in a modern “project” paradigm.

Prerequisite(s): [Music 2736A/B](#)

Course Materials will be updated to owl each week. There is no required course text.

Office Hours are scheduled by appointment. If a student misses a lecture for legitimate and medically documented reasons, I will provide assistance with course material. But I do not give private lessons. Students should rely on their peers to gather, and understand, material from any classes they miss. See me only to clarify what you and your peers cannot grasp independently

Evaluation: 4 Unit Projects (/25 x 4)

Students are divided into 3 working groups for the semester. As members of these groups, each student will fulfill one of four rotating roles for each unit: (i) a producer; (ii) an engineer; (iii) an assistant engineer; (iv) one or more audio editing engineers. Students will submit: (i) two LogicX session files; and (ii) a pdf recording brief with the following subheadings:

Preproduction Brief.

Includes details on instrument(s), musician(s), availability, travel & performance costs.

Equipment Brief

Includes specific details of make, model, number

Signal Path.

Provide a Block Diagram signal chain of the session

Stage Plot & Tech Deployment

Provide a detailed sketch of instrument + tech array “plotted” v-a-v session space

Recall Sheets.

Provide multiple copies of recall sheets for each instrument and tech used

Engineering Notes.

Notes made in session, including marked recall sheets & photos of deployment

Editing Notes.

Notes made during and/or after session about editing requirements of raw audio.

→ Engineering Session File(s)

“Group Name_ Instrument Recorded_ Raw Audio_ Date Submitted”

→ Editing Session File(s)

“Group Name_ Instrument Recorded_ Edited Audio_ Date Submitted”

These packages will be submitted, with all group members CC'd, via wetransfer.com links to jhodgs5@uwo.ca. These unit projects will cover engineering, respectively: drums, vocals, guitars and bass, and a final open subject project.

Grading Scale A+ = 90-100%, A = 80-89%, B = 70-79%, C = 60-69%, D = 50-59%, F = 0-49%.

Schedule of Topics

January 10:

Introduction to the course and course concept

Sample session: guitar and vocal demo

January 17:

Orientation to the Studio

Tech Complement/Deployment for Recording Drums

January 24:

Recording Drums

January 31:

Editing Drums

February 7:

Ripping Samples from Vinyl

February 14:

Unit 1 Project Due (Drums)

Recording Vocals

February 21: READING WEEK

February 28:

Comping and Editing Vocals

March 6:

Unit 2 Project Due (Vocals)

Stereo Arrays for Acoustic Guitar

March 13:

Recording Electric Guitars & Bass

DI & amp tandems

March 20:

Unit 3 Project Due (Electric Guitars and Bass)

Reamping/ Chamber Reverbs

March 27: OPEN WORK TIME

April 3:

Unit Project 4 Due (Open Subject)

Academic Consideration for Student Absence and Missed Work (≥10%)

Students are responsible for making up any missed classes or assignments as soon as possible. The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate (TC210), together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. Students are directed to read the Senate policy on accommodation for medical illness at the following website for further details regarding requirements and procedures for the supporting documentation:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.

Academic Consideration for Student Absence and Missed Work (<10%)

In cases where students miss work that is worth less than 10% of the total course grade (ie. two or fewer assignments) due to medical illness or compassionate grounds, if documentation is voluntarily submitted to the Associate Dean's office and the Associate Dean grants an accommodation, then the missed assignment(s) or quiz(zes) will be discounted in the calculation of the final grade for the course. If documentation is not voluntarily submitted then the missed assignment(s) will receive a grade of zero. Students who have been denied accommodation by an instructor may appeal this decision to the Associate Dean's office but will be required to present appropriate documentation.

Academic Offences

Submission of work with which you have received help from someone else (other than the course instructor or TA) is an example of plagiarism, which is considered a major academic offence. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, as found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

Students that are in emotional/mental distress should refer to the Health and Wellness at Western page (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help or to go to the Wellness Education Centre located in UCC room 76. **Students in crisis in need of immediate care are directed to go directly to Student Health Services in UC11 or to click on the green “I Need Help Now” button on the Health and Wellness page above.**

ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students work with Accessible Education Western (AEW, formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:
https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.
<http://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>

CONTINGENCY PLAN

Although the intent is for this course to be delivered in-person, the changing COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate some or all of the course to be delivered online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any assessments affected will be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

GENDER-BASED AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence, either recently or in the past, you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at
https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca or call 519 661-3568.

EXAMINATIONS & ATTENDANCE

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

