

## **Recorded Sound - Spring 2020**

Monday 3:10pm - 6:00pm - Prentis Hall, Room 317

Instructor: David Bird - [dwb2125@columbia.edu](mailto:dwb2125@columbia.edu)

TA: Rosana Caban - [rc3226@columbia.edu](mailto:rc3226@columbia.edu)

This course covers basic techniques in audio recording and encourages critical listening and creative methods in recording sound. Students will become accustomed to the design and routing of the modern studio, different styles of microphones and their applications, and creative ways of utilizing ambience and reverb in recording. The course will cover advanced skills in mixing and mastering, as well as basic acoustics and the design of acoustic treatment in recording environments. Ultimately this class is designed for students with a keen interest in integrating recording skills into their practice and is a "hands-on" project-oriented class, where student engagement, attendance, and assignment completion are of utmost importance.

### **Grades:**

Grades will be based on assignments, a midterm project, a final project, and attendance / participation. Grading will be on a straight 10% scale: 90-100% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; no curve.

The final grade will be determined using the following percentages:

Attendance 30%

Assignments 40%

Midterm 10%

Final 20%

### **Attendance:**

Each student is allowed 1 absence without penalty as long as they notify the professor before the missed class. Outside of this, each student begins the semester with 100 percentage points for attendance, and will lose 5 percentage points for each additional absence committed. Two late arrivals equals 1 absence. Excused absences (religious or medical, noted in via email to the professor prior to the absence occurring) accompanied by proper documentation will not lead to point deductions.

**Electronic device use:**

Laptops, phones, and tablets are not allowed to be used in class.

**Backing up your work:**

The computer in class has disk space available for everyone's projects, but you will be sharing the space with other class members and there is always a chance files may accidentally be moved, renamed, destroyed, or deleted. Because of this, you should always have a backup for your projects on an external hard drive. No allowance will be made for computer failure and/or network problems. Back your work up early and often to avoid problems.

**Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity:**

The intellectual venture in which we are all engaged requires the highest level of personal and academic integrity. As members of an academic community, each one of us bears the responsibility to participate in scholarly discourse and research in a manner characterized by intellectual honesty and scholarly integrity.

Scholarship, by its very nature, is an iterative process, with ideas and insights building one upon the other. Collaborative scholarship requires the study of other scholars' work, the free discussion of such work, and the explicit acknowledgement of those ideas in any work that inform our own. This exchange of ideas relies upon a mutual trust that sources, opinions, facts, and insights will be properly noted and carefully credited.

In practical terms, this means that, as students, you must be responsible for the full citations of others' ideas in all of your research papers and projects; you must be scrupulously honest when taking your examinations; you must always submit your own work and not that of another student, scholar, or internet agent.

**Name and Pronoun Usage:**

As this course includes group work and in-class discussion, it is vitally important for us to create an environment of inclusion and mutual respect. This includes the ability for all students to have their gender pronoun(s) and accurate name affirmed. If the class roster or a form of address used in class does not align with your name and/or pronouns, please inform the instructor of the necessary changes.

### Tentative Schedule:

1/27	Introduction
2/3	Recording / Acoustics / How to Use the Studio
2/10	Recording Voice
2/17	Recording Instruments
2/24	Reverb
3/2	Stereo Microphone Techniques / Stereo Composition
3/9	Midterm Presentations
3/16	<b>Spring Break</b>
3/23	Mixing (Tools: EQ, Compression, Panning)
3/30	Mixing 2
4/6	Mixing 3 (Approaches)
4/13	Final Project Proposal
4/20	Mastering
4/27	TBD
5/4	Final Project Presentations