San Jose State University/School of Music and Dance

Music 170B, Intermediate Sound Recording/Production,

Section 01, Spring 2016

Contact Information

Instructor: Tom Langan

Office Location: Music Building Room 124

Email: thomas.langan@sjsu.edu

Office Hours: Office hours are conducted in the recording studio often before or after class. Please make an appointment if you wish to see me.

Class Days/Time: Monday 7PM – 9:45PM

Prerequisites: MUSIC 170A or instructor consent

Classroom: Music Building Room 124

Course Fees: Music Use Fee Required

Course Description

Intermediate sound recording and processing techniques in studio sound and music recording: emphasis on multi-track production, processing, effects, microphone technique, and production techniques.

Prerequisite: MUSIC 170A

Course Goals and Learning Objectives

SJSU classes are designed such that in order to be successful, it is expected that students will spend a minimum of forty-five hours for each unit of credit (normally three hours per unit per
week), including preparing for class, participating in course activities, completing assignments, and so on. All class members must have an email address, regular access to the web, and be able to download and/or listen to class materials every week.

If you do not have access to a computer with web access at your home or residence, computers may be accessed throughout the King Library, and in the computer labs, Sweeney Hall 431 and 433.

Methods of audio recording are essential to all electronic communications media, and are the focus of one of the largest commercial arts industries. 170B recording emphasizes production values along with development of technical use of audio hardware and software for varied production purposes. Critical judgment of acoustic quality is seen as a combination of technical skill and an understanding of listener/user expectations. Rather than emphasizing commercial music recording, the 170 series examines the use of sound as an integrated element in various types of media production. Student presentation and discussion play a large role in the development of audio recording techniques.

**Course Content Learning Outcomes**

Through this coursework, class members shall be able to:

- delineate and use studio hardware and software, addressing recording functionality encountered in studio practices
- have command of common microphone techniques for varied practices
- understand multi-media synchronization in current computer-based projects
- learn digital recording production within integrated software systems and identify how they differ from previous analog-based generations.
- assemble production media for contemporary arts projects including: original loop construction, sample construction, mixing techniques with fundamental modifiers, and organization of sound construction materials.
- Learn Logic to the level of Apple Certification Level 1.

Concurrent with Learning Outcomes, Music 170B seeks to develop an understanding of the Recording Arts as a craft and having a set of practices and skills separate from the objectives needed for a specific production, event, or recording session.

**Required Texts/Readings**

**Textbook**

Texts for this class are available as manuals for operation of equipment in room 124 and readings that will be provided.

**Other equipment / material requirements**
Class members must pay for their own production supplies. Recordable media should be taken to every session for back-up purposes. You may choose to bring in your own flash drives and portable hard drives for data organization and back-up.

CLASS COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

All class members must have an email address, regular access to the web, and be able to download and/or listen to class materials every week. If you do not have access to a computer with web access at your home or residence, computers may be accessed throughout the King Library, and in the computer labs, Sweeney Hall 431 and 433.

STUDIO ACCESS

Access: Once you are officially enrolled in the class, paid the Music Use Fee, and have a signed studio use card from the instructor, see the Music Office. They will coordinate to get cards activated for the studio. Also request access for the Computer Lab as the class will meet there as well.

Scheduling: The recording studio will be open during regular departmental hours, and some time on weekends. Please check with departmental signs for this semester’s hours. Late evening sessions are possible by arrangement. Acoustic recording sessions are best scheduled in late evenings or after normal university hours.

Lab/Studio Time: The studio is open on a first-come first-serve basis. You may reserve two hours each week by penciling in your name on the schedule. If you need more time for an involved project, please contact the instructor to schedule more time. YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR STUDIO LOG EVERY TIME YOU USE THE STUDIO. Reports of improper facility treatment, poor clean-up, doors left open, or use of the studio at unauthorized times will be cause for expulsion from the facilities and/or from the class.

SPECIAL NOTES

- Regular studio sign-up times may be altered BY THE INSTRUCTOR from time to time for special projects/sessions in the studio, or due to repairs. Make-up times will be assigned if possible.
- A Music Use Fee must be paid for enrollment in this class.
- Your instructor insists upon a high level of courtesy, cooperation and participation between all class members in a shared studio environment.

STUDIO PROCEDURES

General:
If a student does not show up to their reserved time slot, another student may use the studio, however, the reserved time still belongs to that student if they should show up late. Please be courteous to your fellow students regarding studio time.

You must sign-in on the studio log every time you use the studio. No food or drinks except bottled water. Zero-out, turn-off, and replace equipment when finished.

Computer Use:
Desktop: Please keep the computer desktop clean.
File Management: Be sure to follow proper folder hierarchy for your recording projects within session folders.

Storage: Students will have one folder (by last name) on the 170B Drive in which to store all of their recording projects. BACK UP YOUR WORK on a regular basis and clear off any unused files.

Note: Any reports of excessive noise, improper clean-up, doors left open, or unauthorized after hours studio use may result in a loss of studio privileges.

**TIME REQUIREMENTS.**

As a studio course, all work is completely dependent upon substantial time spent in the studio. All class members will be expected to select a regular time for studio practice in addition to attending class meetings. Participation in group recording projects will be expected during the semester, so it will be imperative for class members to work together to find session times. It will also be necessary to carefully arrange your recording projects with the instructor and with performers so that there will be NO conflicts with work, classes, or other obligations. Cancelled sessions cannot be made up. This is a time intensive course. Please make sure you can devote the time necessary to complete substantial work.

**Assignments and Grading Policy**

170B recording is a fully studio-based class. Grades are based upon both aesthetic considerations in projects, exams (given as materials are covered), and demonstrated knowledge of the tools. In addition to attending lectures, written and studio assignments will be required as particular topics are encountered. This work will be assigned in class, with due dates determined at that time. Completed assignments will often constitute a large part of the graded material.

Students will be expected to complete assignments as they are given, take a written mid-term, and complete a final project, which will serve as the basis for the final.

Completion of assignments (30%), tests (30%), and individual/group project (30%) will result in a grade of “C” or better. Grades of “B” or “A” are earned by a qualitative evaluation of the projects in terms of analysis, intent and execution. It is the responsibility of each student to make his or her preparation and studio participation known. 10% of this grade is earned through class participation.

**University Policies**

**Dropping and Adding**

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at [http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narrsoc-fall/rec-324.html](http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narrsoc-fall/rec-324.html). Information about late drop is available at [http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/](http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy/). Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.
Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material

University Policy S12-7, http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf, requires students to obtain instructor’s permission to record the course.

• “Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor’s permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

• “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

Academic integrity

Students should know the University’s Academic Integrity Policy that is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf

Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University’s integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html.

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person’s ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU’s Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Student Technology Resources

Computer labs for student use are available in the Academic Success Center at http://www.sjsu.edu/at/asc/ located on the 1st floor of Clark Hall and in the Associated Students Lab on the 2nd floor of the Student Union. Additional computer labs may be available in your department/college. Computers are also available in the Martin Luther King Library.

A wide variety of audio-visual equipment is available for student checkout from Media Services located in IRC 112. These items include DV and HD digital camcorders; digital still cameras;
video, slide and overhead projectors; DVD, CD, and audiotape players; sound systems, wireless microphones, projection screens and monitors.

**SJSU Peer Connections**

Peer Connections, a campus-wide resource for mentoring and tutoring, strives to inspire students to develop their potential as independent learners while they learn to successfully navigate through their university experience. You are encouraged to take advantage of their services which include course-content based tutoring, enhanced study and time management skills, more effective critical thinking strategies, decision making and problem-solving abilities, and campus resource referrals.

In addition to offering small group, individual, and drop-in tutoring for a number of undergraduate courses, consultation with mentors is available on a drop-in or by appointment basis. Workshops are offered on a wide variety of topics including preparing for the Writing Skills Test (WST), improving your learning and memory, alleviating procrastination, surviving your first semester at SJSU, and other related topics. A computer lab and study space are also available for student use in Room 600 of Student Services Center (SSC).

Peer Connections is located in three locations: SSC, Room 600 (10th Street Garage on the corner of 10th and San Fernando Street), at the 1st floor entrance of Clark Hall, and in the Living Learning Center (LLC) in Campus Village Housing Building B. Visit Peer Connections website at http://peerconnections.sjsu.edu for more information.

**SJSU Writing Center**

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Suite 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the Writing Center website at http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter. For additional resources and updated information, follow the Writing Center on Twitter and become a fan of the SJSU Writing Center on Facebook.

(Note: You need to have a QR Reader to scan this code.)

**SJSU Counseling Services**

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7th Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appoint-
### Music 170B, Intermediate Sound Recording

#### Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1/28/13</td>
<td>Class expectations, review, studio organization. Introductions, Evolution of studio technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2/4/13</td>
<td>Samples and Sampling- textural aesthetic I</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2/11/13</td>
<td>Review of Logic, Microphone technique: everyone must be checked out on studio function</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2/18/13</td>
<td>The Board- Navigation in Logic: Studio Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2/25/13</td>
<td>Logic: discussion 1 division of construction purposes More Studio Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>3/11/13</td>
<td>StudioAestheticI: seminar- discussion: plug-ins</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>3/18/13</td>
<td>StudioAestheticII: seminar- discussion: plug-ins II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>3/25/13</td>
<td>spring break- No class</td>
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<tr>
<td>04/01/13</td>
<td>Studio Recording Day: inter-department session planned</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/8/13</td>
<td>Production Day: Plug-ins and mixing issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/15/13</td>
<td>Studio Aesthetic III: MIDI manipulation seminar/discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>4/22/13</td>
<td>Discussion of film and media sound</td>
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<td>4/29/13</td>
<td>Guest Lecture or Field Trip</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/6/13</td>
<td>Listening Day: Final Recording Project Due</td>
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*Please Note: this schedule is subject to change with fair notice. Any changes and other important notifications will be posted on the classes Canvas webpage.*