Live Sound Engineering  
MIND 3314.001
Fall Semester 2017
Location of Class: PAC 306
Dr. Brian R. Thacker
Office: CA 109
Phone: (361) 825-3291
Email: brian.thacker@tamucc.edu
T/TH 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An overview of the basic principles of sound reinforcement and how audio can be manipulated utilizing current live sound technology. Topics will include signal flow, microphone selection and placement, signal processing, and mixing.

REQUIRED TEXT & MATERIALS


BLACKBOARD ACCESS

This class utilizes Blackboard technology for assignments and supplemental materials. Students needing access instructions or help with Blackboard can refer to the Island Online website (http://distance-education.tamucc.edu). Be sure and check the Student Resources Link (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html) which includes useful documents such as Steps to Preparing Your Computer for Blackboard (https://distance-education.tamucc.edu/techreq.html).

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Understand the basic requirements for sound reinforcement
2. Become familiar with sound reinforcement techniques for various genres
3. Demonstrate working knowledge of a sound reinforcement system
4. Be able to design a basic sound reinforcement system.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and readings will be given as new concepts and principles are discussed in class. The topics and assignments will cover:

• The role of sound reinforcement in a performance setting
• The methods used to design a sound reinforcement system
• Developing a working knowledge of microphones appropriate for sound reinforcement
• Explaining signal flow in a sound reinforcement system
• Explaining the roles of various components in a sound reinforcement system
• Developing a working knowledge of signal gain structure in a sound reinforcement system
• Describing the importance of tuning a sound reinforcement system
• Developing a working knowledge of analog sound boards
• Developing a working knowledge of digital sound boards
• Explaining the process of programming digital sound boards

GRADING PROCEDURES & POLICIES

Assessment of the student's work is based on the following criteria:

• Command and application of the material covered in the classroom.
• Command of terminology.
• Final exam covering basic procedures in live sound reinforcement.
• Four live sound projects.

The student's final grade will be drawn from grades received for each component of the course:

Assignments 50%
Project 1 10%
Project 2 10%
Project 3 10%
Project 4 10%
Final Exam 10%

EXAMINATIONS

There will be a final examination (comprehensive of the entire semester). The main purpose of the examination is to verify that the students comprehend the techniques and principles taught in class and can readily apply them in a short period of time.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is subject to change, dependent on the needs and progress of the class.

Unit 1 – Basic Live Sound Part I (PA & Microphones)
Unit 2 – Basic Live Sound Part II (Mixers & Effects)
Unit 3 – Basic Live Sound Part III (Stage Miking & Monitors)
Unit 4 – Basic Live Sound Part IV (Practicalities & Technical Issues)
Unit 5 – Fundamentals of Sound
ATTENDANCE

Since every class is essential, attendance is necessary for success. If you must miss class due to an illness or emergency, please call me, or leave a message on my voice mail prior to class.

The music department’s attendance policy for academic courses is the following:
• You are allowed four absences from class for any reason.
• Each tardy will count as ½ an absence.
• After the fifth absence, your final course grade will be lowered by one letter grade.
• After the sixth absence, you will receive a failing grade in the course.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY/PLAGIARISM

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in the loss of a letter grade.

DROPPING A CLASS

It is hoped that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
GRADE APPEALS PROCESS
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures (available at http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C2.01_student_grade_appeal_procedure.pdf). For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

DISABILITY SERVICES
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.
If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity
In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.