

## **MUST 3341 – Intro to the Recording Studio – FALL 2017**

Instructor: Erik Unsworth

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**Course Description:** Survey of the history and development of the modern recording studio and modern recording technologies. This survey will have 3 key areas of focus: (1) Recording studios of historical importance (2) People who greatly influenced the development of sound recording and/or recording technology (3) Creation and development of specific recording technologies and the hardware (& software) commonly associated with them and utilized in the recording studio of today.

**Primary Study Material:** Will be given in class. All students must keep an organized notebook containing class notes and all handouts. Your text will be created as the class progresses.

### **Class Schedule:**

Week 1: Overview, Historical Background – Acoustic Era Recording – Studio Basics.

Week 2: Early Electrical Era: 1925-'45 – Studio Acoustics & Design, Microphone & Loudspeaker basics.

Week 3: Modern Studio Era, pt 1. – Stereophonic sound – Analog Tape Systems, pt. 1

Week 4: Mixing Consoles, pt. 1 – Analog Tape Systems, pt. 2 – Overdub technology.

Week 5: Modern Studio Era, pt. 2 – Mixing Consoles, pt. 2 – **Test 1** given.

Week 6: Mixing consoles, pt 3 – Microphone applications – The Record Producer, pt. 1

Week 7: Modern Studio Era, pt. 3 – Signal Processing and Noise Reduction basics.

Week 8: Digital Technologies, pt. 1 (Basic overview) – The Record Producer, pt. 2

Week 9: Modern Studio Era, pt. 4 – Digital Technologies, pt. 2, Digital Signal Processors.

Week 10: The Digital Mixing Console – Hard Disk Recorders. – **Test 2** given

Week 11: Modern Studio Era, pt. 5 – Computer-based recording, pt. 1

Week 12: Computer-based recording, pt. 2.

**Week 13: Computer-based recording, pt. 3.**

**Week 14/15: Class summation & Class Presentations – Test 3 given.**

**Projects:**

- 1) **Analog Tape & Mixing console – recording and splicing – Microphone tests.**
  - 2) **Live Recording Techniques – UTEP Recital Hall recording booth – attend & assist.**
  - 3) **Research project – written paper (in-class presentations for extra credit).**
  - 4) **Digital Mixing – basic ProTools concepts.**
- \*\* details on all of these will be given as semester progresses.**

**Grading:** final grade will be determined by the results of 3 Tests (30%), 4 major Projects (40%), weekly quizzes (20%), and attendance/participation (10%).

**\*\* Attendance is mandatory and will be taken during the semester. More than two unexcused absences will result in the lowering of your final grade.**

**\*\* The class will be taking 3 “field trips” to visit and observe working recording studios in the El Paso area. Dates and times will be announced in class. These trips are essential for a real understanding of the recording studio environment. Each student must be present for 2 out of 3 of these trips. Every effort will be made to schedule according to the needs of the majority of the class participants. Attendance is not optional – failure to do so will result in the lowering of the final grade.**