

## MUSI2705: Music Recording and Production Techniques

Newcastle City Precinct

Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

*The School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences is committed to providing an inclusive environment in which all cultures are accorded respect and all students and staff are expected to act with honesty, fairness, trustworthiness and accountability in dealings with others. The School recognises and respects the unique histories and cultures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their unbroken relationship with the lands and the waters of Australia over millennia, and the validity of Aboriginal ways of knowing. We are dedicated to reconciliation and to offering opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to access and succeed in higher education.*

## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	This course provides students with skills and knowledge of digital audio recording, microphones and miking techniques, editing and mastering. Students will gain proficiency in areas of emerging technologies pertinent to the professional music industry and obtain an understanding of practical applications within the context of real world scenarios.
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	It is assumed that students will have completed Foundations in Digital Music and Media (MUSI1705) (or equivalent) before enrolling in this course.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<b>Lecture</b> Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term  <b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face On Campus 1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

[www.newcastle.edu.au](http://www.newcastle.edu.au)

CRICOS Provider 00109J

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Newcastle City Precinct</b> Mr Nathan Scott Nathan.Scott@newcastle.edu.au 0249218922 Consultation: By arrangement (face-to-face, email or Zoom)
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas site.
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Humanities Creative Industries and Social Sciences</b> NU Space, Level 4 409 Hunter Street Newcastle HCISS@newcastle.edu.au +61 4985 4500

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	Topics covered will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Digital Audio Hardware</li><li>• Digital Audio Software</li><li>• Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) communications</li><li>• Microphones and Miking Techniques</li><li>• Editing Practices and Conventions</li><li>• Mixing Techniques</li><li>• Equalisation</li><li>• Effects and Plugins</li><li>• Audio Mastering Techniques</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use current digital audio hardware and software for recording music in a studio context.</li><li>2. Demonstrate the effective use of microphone techniques.</li><li>3. Apply a knowledge of digital audio mixing and editing to a creative recording project.</li><li>4. Create a high quality multitrack audio recording using industry standard equipment.</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	<b>Other Resources:</b> <p>This course does not require a textbook or software purchase.</p> <p>Please refer to Canvas for the course materials associated with this course.</p>

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Lecture	Tutorial	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	Why we record music. The recording studio. Recording and listening. Understanding analog/digital audio.	The studio environment. Introduction to signal flow. Critical listening activity.	-
2	24 Jul	Sound, signals and acoustics. How instruments create sound. Critical listening, the human ear and describing sound.	Capturing sound (acoustic vs direct). Signal flow for recording. Critical listening activity.	-
3	31 Jul	Microphones: design, function and application. The sound spectrum. Audio interfaces and related hardware. Improving aural discernment.	Working with microphones. Audio capture and preamps. Critical listening activity.	-
4	7 Aug	Understanding digital audio/sampling. Headphones, speakers and listening environments.	Audio capture and processing. Critical listening activity.	-
5	14 Aug	Revision for Assessment One. Working through a recording session. Guide tracks, click tracks and monitoring.	Assessment One - Online test	Assessment One - Monday 14 August 2023
6	21 Aug	Recording, editing and mixing. The process of overdubbing. Audio post production.	Recording/mixing exercise	-
7	28 Aug	Extended techniques and components of audio mixing.	Cleaning up and enhancing a recording through editing/mixing.	-
8	4 Sep	Dynamic control and audio processing.	Audio mixing for ease of listening and music enhancement.	-
9	11 Sep	Taking on different roles in the studio. Creating an ensemble recording. Making judgments about music/sound quality.	Developing frameworks/templates for effective ensemble recording. Tracking multiple sound sources.	Assessment Two - Wednesday 13 September 2023
10	18 Sep	Specialist recordings techniques for ensembles/instruments. Managing a studio recording.	Multi-track recording activity.	-
<b>Mid Term Break</b>				
<b>Mid Term Break</b>				
11	9 Oct	Creating a final mix. Difference between mixing and mastering. Basic mastering techniques/methods.	Normalising a recording. Fundamental mastering processes.	-
12	16 Oct	Specialist software and plugins for polishing recordings and enhancing the stereo image.	Assessment three production workshop	-
13	23 Oct	Music recording, production and distribution - industry context. Knowing your target audience.	Assessment three production workshop	Assessment Three - Wednesday 25 October

<b>Examination Period</b>	-
<b>Examination Period</b>	-

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Recording Project Preparation - 25% (Online Test)	Monday 14 August 2023	Individual	25%	1, 4
2	Demonstration of Microphone Recording Techniques - 35%	Wednesday 13 September 2023	Individual	35%	1, 2
3	Original Multitrack Audio Recording - 40%	Wednesday 25 October 2023	Group	40%	1, 3, 4

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## Assessment 1 - Recording Project Preparation - 25%

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Online Test
<b>Purpose</b>	To assess the understanding of sound and recording concepts and ability to demonstrate aural discernment that will assist in the development of the recording project/s.
<b>Description</b>	This task will test your knowledge/understanding of the material so far and requires the submission of online content through a test environment. It will include questions about aural discernment.
<b>Weighting</b>	25%
<b>Length</b>	50 minutes duration
<b>Due Date</b>	Monday 14 August 2023
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The assessment criteria will be available in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 2 - Microphone Recording Techniques - 35%

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Practical Demonstration
<b>Purpose</b>	To assess the practical ability to capture and mix a simple piece of performed music.
<b>Description</b>	This task requires you to capture audio using a professional studio context and produce a simple stereo mix.
<b>Weighting</b>	35%
<b>Length</b>	Recording of approx 1-3 minutes duration
<b>Due Date</b>	Wednesday 13 September 2023
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The assessment criteria will be available in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## Assessment 3 - Original Multitrack Audio Recording - 40%

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Project
<b>Purpose</b>	To assess the ability to organise and undertake a multitrack audio recording
<b>Description</b>	This task requires the recording of a musical ensemble in a studio context with the audio mixed to a professional standard.
<b>Weighting</b>	40%
<b>Length</b>	Recording of approx 3-4 minutes duration
<b>Due Date</b>	Wednesday 25 October 2023
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	The assessment criteria will be available in Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

### Attendance

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Tutorial (Method of recording: )

To adhere to the WH&S policy for the School of Humanities, Creative Industries and Social Sciences (HCISS), and to access resources and specialist facilities, inductions are required as part of coursework and research activities.

This course requires you to complete the General Induction BY WEEK 1 of SEMESTER  
<https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/knowledge-base/general-induction/>

How to Guide

<https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/knowledge-base/booking-system-access/>

Induction Catalogue

<https://hciss.newcastle.edu.au/technical/inductions/>

The general induction must be completed by all staff and students within the School. This

	<p>induction covers WHS, General information, Technical support and University operations. This general induction (Level 0) is Mandatory and is required to access general facilities and equipment.</p> <p>By completing the general induction (level 0) you are given access to: General facilities within the city precinct (includes after hours access) Access to book facilities and equipment (Booking point)</p>
<b>WH&amp;S Requirements</b>	<p>Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions, it is the student's responsibility to sanitise their work/computer space prior to any face to face lessons in this course. They must be mindful of current social distancing rules during their face to face lessons.</p>
<b>Communication Methods</b>	<p>Communication methods used in this course include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.</li><li>- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.</li><li>- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.</li></ul>
<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<p>Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.</p> <p>As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination Guidelines. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule.</p>
<b>Oral Interviews (Vivas)</b>	<p>As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the <a href="#">Oral Examination (viva) Procedure</a>. In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the <a href="#">Student Conduct Rule</a>.</p>
<b>Academic Misconduct</b>	<p>All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35</a>.</p>
<b>Adverse Circumstances</b>	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or</li><li>2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;</li><li>3. you are requesting a change of placement; or</li><li>4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.</li></ol> <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: <a href="https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236">https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</a></p>
<b>Important Policy Information</b>	<p>The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures</a> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.</p>

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*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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