



**CLEVELAND SCHOOL
OF AUDIO RECORDING**

Program Syllabus

CLEVELAND SCHOOL OF AUDIO RECORDING

General Information

Instructors:	Mike Brown Mike Pfaff
Office Phone:	(216) 334.1172
E-mail:	mike@lavaroomrecording.com pfaff@lavaroomrecording.com
Office Hours:	Mon-Fri 10am-6pm by appointment only

Program Description

Welcome to Lava Room Recording's *Cleveland School of Audio Recording*. Throughout this 24-week program, you will learn the ins and outs of audio engineering & production stemming from basic signal flow to full session recording. By the end of this program, you should be comfortable and capable enough to run a session on your own, and pursue your career as an audio engineer. The program will be broken up into three 8-week periods allowing us to focus on each intricate part of recording without getting overwhelmed.

Here are a few of the topics we'll cover:

- Basics of Sound and Hearing
- Signal Flow
- Microphone Designs and Applications
- Analogue and Digital Recording Technology
- MIDI and Electronic Production/Programming
- Recording & Mixing Consoles
- Signal Processing



Not only will we read and learn about these topics, but also we will get hands-on experience in the studio and apply what we are learning. The opportunity to sit in on real recording/mixing sessions may also arise, and if so it is strongly recommended to take in all you can.

Program Materials

Huber, D., & Runstein, R. (2005) Modern Recording Techniques (7th Ed.) Elsevier: Focal Press

Program Requirements

The student is required to read the syllabus and complete the work as outlined. All assignments should be submitted on time. Late assignments will be penalized at the instructor's discretion.

Tests will be given every two weeks covering the material touched upon during that timeframe.

Grading

Grades will be given out every 8 weeks to show your progress throughout the program, and will be accumulated at the end of the 24 weeks. The grading scale will be as follows:

A	95 – 100	4.0
B	85 – 94	3.0
C	75 – 84	2.0
D	70 – 74	1.0
F	0 – 69	0.0

All assignments and tests are graded on a 100-point scale, and then weighted to determine your final grade throughout each 8-week period. At the end of the 24 weeks, students will have a final project consisting recording and mixing of one song (25% of grade), and a final written exam (25% of grade). The cumulative grade for the three 8 week periods (50% of grade) will be combined with the final project



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and final exam for your final grade. Students must finish the program with a C average to qualify for certification.

Grade Weights (1st 8 Weeks):

8 Assignments/Quizzes	5% each	40%
4 Tests	15% each	60%

Grade Weights (2nd 8 Weeks):

8 Assignments/Quizzes	5% each	40%
3 Tests	(2) 15%/(1) 30%	60%

Grade Weights (3rd 8 Weeks):

5 Assignments/Quizzes	10% each	50%
2 Tests	25% each	50%

<i>1st 8 weeks</i>	-	16.67%
<i>2nd 8 weeks</i>	-	16.67%
<i>3rd 8 weeks</i>	-	16.66%
<i>Final Project</i>	-	25%
<i>Final Exam</i>	-	25%



Program Outline

Week 1

- Reading
 - Chapter 1 – Introduction (pp. 1-32)
 - Chapter 2 – Sound and Hearing (pp. 33-66)
- Day 1
 - Lecture on Chapters 1 & 2
 - Finish reading Chapters 1 & 2 by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Lab on Sound & Hearing
 - Assignment 1 given

Week 2

- Reading
 - Chapter 3 – Studio Acoustics & Design (pp. 67-114)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 1 due
 - Lecture on Chapter 3
 - Finish reading Chapter 3 by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Lab/Tour on Studio Acoustics & Design
 - Assignment 2 Given
 - Study for Test 1!!!!

Week 3

- Reading
 - Chapter 4 – Microphones: Design & Applications (pp. 115-143)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 2 due
 - Test on Chapters 1-3
 - Lecture on Chapter 4
 - Receive signal flow chart for 'Record Mode' and study EVERY DAY for the rest of the program!
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- Day 2
 - SSL Signal Flow Lab
 - Lab on Microphones (Type & Directional Response)
 - Assignment 3 given



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Week 4

- Reading
 - Chapter 4 – Microphones: Design & Applications (pp. 143-186)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 3 due
 - Lecture on the rest of Chapter 4
 - Finish reading Chapter 4 by next lesson
- Day 2
 - SSL Signal Flow lab
 - Lab on Microphone Techniques
 - Assignment 4 Given
 - Study for Test 2!!!!

Week 5

- Reading
 - Chapter 5 – The Analogue Tape Recorder (pp. 187-214)
 - Chapter 6 – Digital Audio Technology (pp. 215-250)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 4 Due
 - Test on Chapter 4
 - Lecture on Chapters 5 & 6
 - Have Chapter 6 read up to page 250 by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Introduction to Pro Tools Lecture & Lab
 - Assignment 5 Given



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Week 6

- Reading
 - Chapter 6 – Digital Audio Technology (pp. 251-298)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 5 Due
 - Lecture on the rest of Chapter 6
 - Have rest of Chapter 6 read by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Intro to Reason Lab
 - Assignment 6 Given
 - Study for Test 3!!!!

Week 7

- Reading
 - Chapter 7 – Digital Audio Workstations (pp. 235-257)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 6 Due
 - Test on Chapters 5 & 6
 - Lecture on Chapter 7
 - Read up to page 320
- Day 2
 - Signal Flow Lab (Vocal Routing)
 - DAWs Lab 1/Assignment 7

Week 8

- Reading
 - Chapter 7 – Digital Audio Workstations (pp. 257-290)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 7 Due
 - Lecture on the Rest of Chapter 7
 - Have rest of Chapter 7 read by next lesson
 - Have supplemental material read for next week
- Day 2
 - Lab 2 on MIDI
 - Assignment 8 Given
 - Study for Test 4!!!!



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Week 9

- Reading
 - Chapter 9 – MIDI & Electronic Music Technology (pp. 299-320)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 8 Due
 - Test on Chapter 7
 - Lecture 1 on Chapters 9
 - Finish reading week's reading by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Intro to Reason Lab
 - MIDI Lab 1/Assignment 9 – Introduction to MIDI Environments

Week 10

- Reading
 - Chapter 9 – MIDI & Electronic Music Technology (pp. 321-346)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 9 due
 - Lecture 2 on Chapter 9
 - Finish reading Chapter 9
- Day 2
 - MIDI Lab 2/Assignment 10 – Composing Using MIDI
 - Study for Test 5!!!!

Week 11

- Reading
 - Chapter 8 – Groove Tools & Techniques (pp. 291 - 308)
- Day 1
 - Test on Chapter 9
 - Lecture on Chapter 8
- Day 2
 - Lab on Groove Tools & Techniques/Assignment 11



Week 12

- Reading
 - Chapter 10 – Multimedia & the Web (pp. 369-392)
- Day 1
 - Lecture on Chapter 10
 - Finish reading Chapter 10 by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Drum Miking Lab
 - Assignment 12 Given

Week 13

- Reading
 - Chapter 11 – Synchronization (pp. 393-414)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 12 Due
 - Lecture on Chapter 11
 - Finish reading chapter 11
 - Sync Lab
- Day 2
 - Assignment 13 Given
 - Mix Lab 1 (Basic Mixing/Dynamic Effects)

Week 14

- Reading
 - Chapter 12 – Amplifiers (pp. 415-421)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 13 Due
 - Lecture on Chapter 12
 - Guitar Miking Lab (electric)
- Day 2
 - Mix Lab (Time Based Effects)
 - Signal Flow Practical/Assignment 14 (Vocal Routing)
 - Study for Test 7!!!!



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Week 15

- Reading
 - Chapter 13 – The Art & Tech. of Mixing (pp. 423-440)
- Day 1
 - Test on Chapters 11 & 12
 - Lecture on Chapter 13
 - Read up to page 440
- Day 2
 - Art/Tech. Mix Lab/Assignment 15

Week 16

- Reading
 - Chapter 13 – The Art & Tech. of Mixing (pp. 441-468)
- Day 1
 - Lecture on the Rest of Chapter 13
 - Have rest of Chapter 13 read by next lesson
- Day 2
 - Mixing Lab
 - Assignment 16 Given
 - Study for Test 8!!!!

Week 17

- Reading
 - Chapter 14 – Signal Processing (pp. 469-486)
- Day 1
 - Assignment 16 Due
 - Lecture on Chapter 14
 - Mixing Lab
- Day 2
 - Signal Processing Mixing Lab/Assignment 17



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Week 18

- Reading
 - Chapter 14 – Signal Processing (pp. 487-512)
- Day 1
 - Lecture on the rest of Chapter 14
 - Mixing Lab
- Day 2
 - Mixing Lab
 - Signal Flow Quiz!/Assignment 18
 - Study for Test 9!!!!

Week 19

- Reading
 - Chapter 15 – Noise Reduction (pp. 513-522)
- Day 1
 - Test on Chapter 14
 - Lecture on Chapter 15
 - Talk about final project
 - Start looking for something to record!
 - Mixing Lab/Studio A Practical Review
- Day 2
 - Mixing Lab
 - Studio A Practical/Assignment 19

Week 20

- Reading
 - Chapter 16 – Monitoring (pp. 523-544)
- Day 1
 - Lecture on Chapter 16
 - Mixing Lab
 - Keep looking for an artist for final project!!!!
- Day 2
 - Mixing Lab
 - Study for Test 10



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Week 21

- Reading
 - Chapters 17 & 18 – Surround Sound & Mastering (pp. 545-574)
- Day 1
 - Test on Chapters 15 & 16
 - Lecture on Surround and Mastering
 - Mixing Lab
- Day 2
 - Mix Lab Evaluation/Assignment 20
 - Assignment 21/Final Review Given
 - Go over details for Final Project starting NEXT WEEK!!!!

Week 22

- Reading
 - Chapter 19 – Product Manufacture (pp. 575-596)
 - Chapter 20 – Studio Tips & Tricks
- Day 1
 - Assignment 21 Due
 - Brief lecture on chapters 19 & 20
 - Tracking for Final Project Begins
- Day 2
 - Tracking for Final Project

Week 23

- Day 1
 - Continue tracking for Final Project (if needed)
 - Begin mixing Final Project (if time allows)
- Day 2
 - Begin Mixdown process for Final Project
 - Begin studying for Final Exam!!!!

Week 24

- Day 1
 - Last day for mixing Final Project
 - Study for Final Exam
 - Final Exam Review
- Day 2
 - Final Project Due
 - Final Exam!!!!