

A440 Syllabus

This is an independent study course. It is intended for students who are interested in pursuing their own research, audio production, sound for visual media project, or other project relevant to their interests. To be approved for A440 students must do the following:

1. Create a project proposal.
2. Find a faculty member to supervise the project.
3. Get approval from the chair of the Audio Engineering Department.

Project Proposal:

In a separate document, provide the following information.

1. Faculty member who will be supervising this project
2. A detailed description of the project.
3. Proposed week-by-week schedule:
 - a. Plan on 15 total weeks of work on the project: a 16 week semester with Thanksgiving break (week 14) in the Fall, and Spring break, (week 10) in the Spring.
 - b. The schedule should include at least four benchmarks that insure the student keeps to the proposed schedule (as an example: for a EP recording project the student might propose that pre-production/project planning will be complete by week 3, basic tracking would be completed by week 8, overdubs completed by week 10, mixing completed by week 14, and final mastering by week 16)
 - c. There should be regular meetings with the faculty supervisor, at least every two weeks.
 - d. Final assessment will take place during finals week.
4. Project output: what materials will you produce as part of the project and how will they be submitted? (Using the above example of an EP; project output would be project planning notes, take sheets and session notes, rough mixes, final mixes, and a paper about the project and assessing its success)
5. What will be the final assessment? How will you and the instructor judge the success of the project?
6. Time commitment: Calculate the time commitment for each component (weekly work, meetings with supervising faculty member, creation of project outcome, and final assessment). Plan on a minimum of 90 hours of work (6 hours per week) for 3 credits.
7. Grading rubric: how will the project be graded? Break project into individual parts and assign a point value or percentage to each. Include a grade penalty for late or unmet benchmarks. The final assessment must be worth no less than 30 percent of the grade.

8. If this proposal is a collaboration among Recording Arts students, list the name of each student, role of each student, how project outcomes will be distributed among each student, and how the final assessment will be applied to each student. Each student will be expected to fulfill the minimum time commitment outlined in item 6.

Course policies:

- Supervising faculty member will review this proposal and may suggest or require changes to make sure the project outcome is achievable and the workload appropriate for the number of credits the student is requesting.
- Once the proposal has been finalized, the supervising faculty member must approve modifications.
- As a general rule, a grade of Incomplete will not be issued for A440. However in the event that circumstances beyond the student's control delay successful completion of the project (collaborations with persons outside the Recording Arts Department for example), an Incomplete may be issued. Keep in mind that graduation may be delayed if an Incomplete is issued for the student's final semester.