



COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix, Number, and Title

MUS 109 Musicianship II

Credits

3

University Name

Dakota State University

Academic Term/Year

Spring 2026

Last date to Drop and receive 100% refund

January 21, 2026

Last date to Withdraw and earn a grade of 'W.'

April 7, 2026

Course Meeting Time and Location

Tuesday and Thursday 11 am – 12:15 pm TCB 209

Instructor Information

Name

Tate Carson

Office

TCB 305

Phone Number(s)

605-681-6183

Email Address

Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Office Hours

Mondays and Fridays 10:00–12:00; Wednesdays 10:00–12:00 and 1:00–2:00; Tuesdays 2:30–3:30; additional meetings available by appointment.

Approved Course Description

Catalog Description

A study of foundational principles of the science of sound as necessary for training in audio engineering and digital sound design involving written, aural, and analytical perspectives

including, but not limited to ear training, harmonics, frequencies, equalization, sound synthesis, and overall sound structure within acoustic and digital settings.

Additional Course Information

This course lays the foundations for technical ear training and sound analysis. Students will engage in critical listening, sound journaling, creating a source recordings list, class discussions, student presentations, and technical ear training modules.

Technical ear training modules are designed to increase hearing sensitivities and recognition of the following:

- Tonal Balance and Equalization
- Spatial Attributes and Reverberation
- Dynamic Range Control
- Distortion and Noise

Prerequisites

Course Prerequisite(s)

MUS 108

Technology Skills

Use of web browser

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will analyze the physical and perceptual properties of sound by identifying relationships among frequency, amplitude, harmonics, and timbre in both acoustic and digital contexts.
2. Students will demonstrate technical ear training skills by accurately recognizing and describing tonal balance, equalization changes, spatial attributes, reverberation, dynamic range control, distortion, and noise in recorded and synthesized audio examples.
3. Students will apply critical listening methodologies through sound journaling, analytical writing, and oral discussion to articulate informed evaluations of sound structure and sonic design choices.
4. Students will evaluate and compare sound sources, recordings, and synthesis techniques by relating audible characteristics to underlying signal-processing and acoustic principles.
5. Students will communicate sound analyses effectively using discipline-specific terminology in written, aural, and presentation-based formats appropriate to audio engineering and digital sound design practice.

Course Materials

Required Textbook(s)

Audio Production and Critical Listening: Technical Ear Training, by Jason Corey

Required Supplementary Materials

Headphones

Purchase of uncompressed music files for analysis – ex Bandcamp, HDTracks, Qobuz

Course Delivery and Instructional Methods

This is a face-to-face course that includes interactive ear-training and sound-analysis lectures. Some classes will focus on learning to use the technical ear-training software, while others will cover sound-analysis methods.

Communication and Feedback

Preferred Email Contact Method

Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Email Response Time

Within 48 hours when class is in session.

Feedback on Assignments

Within one week of the assignment due date.

Evaluation Procedures

Assessments

Attendance/Participation (15%)

Technical Ear Training quizzes (20%)

Audio Analysis Journals/Presentations (20%)

Final Project/presentation (25%)

Final Exam (20%)

Final Examination

May 7, 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Performance Standards and Grading Policy

90% and above = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59% or below = F

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
1	1/12	Syllabus Introduction to Critical Listening Talking about sound
2	1/19	Multidimensional listening skills Spectral balance and equalization Working with the EQ Practice Module Quiz 0 (practice) – 1 octave, 1 band, + 12 dB, pink noise, freq 500 to 2000 Hz

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
3	1/26	Analysis of sound Start work on weekly analysis journals Quiz 1 - 1 octave, 1 band, + 12 dB, pink noise, freq 500 to 2000 Hz
4	2/2	Student journal presentation 1 Quiz 2 - 1 octave, 1 band, - 12 dB, sound file, freq 500 to 2000 Hz Schafer Listening exercises
5	2/9	Student journal presentation 2 Quiz 3 - 1 octave, 1 band, + 12 dB / - 12 dB, pink noise and sound file, full range Evaluating sound with graphing
6	2/16	Student journal presentation 3 Quiz 4 - 1 octave, 1 band, + 9 dB / - 9 dB, pink noise and sound file, full range
7	2/23	Student journal presentation 4 Quiz 5 - 1 octave, 1 band, + 6 dB / - 6 dB, pink noise and sound file, full range
8	3/2	Student journal presentation 5 Quiz 6 - 1 octave, 1 band, all combinations, pink noise, and sound file, full range
9	3/9	Student journal presentation 6 Quiz 7 - 1/3 octave, 1 bands, + 12 dB / - 12 dB, pink noise and sound file
10	3/16	Spring Break – No Class
11	3/23	Student journal presentation 7 Quiz 8 - 1/3 octave, 1 bands, + 9 dB / - 9 dB, pink noise, and sound file Final Paper introduction
12	3/30	Student journal presentation 8 Quiz 9 - 1/3 octave, 2 bands, + 12 dB / - 12 dB, pink noise and sound file

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
13	4/6	Student journal presentation 9 Quiz 10 - Reverberation Dynamic Range Listening
14	4/13	Student journal presentation 10 Quiz 11 - Dynamic range expansion + Dynamic range compression Distortion Final paper presentation
15	4/20	Quiz 12 - Distortion Final paper presentations
16	4/27	Final Exam Prep This exam will cover aspects of each of the critical listening skills we've learned throughout the semester.

Student Success Services and Supports

ADA Accommodations

Dakota State University strives to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and Dakota State University's Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

DSU's Office of Disability Services is located in the Learning Engagement Center and can be contacted by calling 605-256-5121 or emailing dsu-ada@dsu.edu. Students seeking ADA accommodations (such as non-standard note taking or extended time and/or a quiet space taking exams and quizzes) can access the DSU website <https://dsu.edu/student-life/disability-services/index.html> for additional information and the link to the Disability Services Request Form. You will need to provide documentation of your disability and the ADA Coordinator must confirm the need before officially authorizing accommodations.

DSU Knowledge Base

The DSU Knowledge Base contains links and resources to help students by providing information about the following topics: User Accounts & Passwords, Academic Tools & Resources, Software & Apps Support, WiFi & Network Access, Campus Emergency Alert System, Campus Printing, IT Security & Safe Computing, and the Support Desk (which is there to help both on and off-campus students). The Knowledge Base can be accessed through the link below:

- [DSU Knowledge Base](#)

D2L Support for Students

The D2L Support for Students site is designed to provide DSU students a D2L support resource center that contains user guides, tutorials, and tips for using the D2L learning environment. The D2L Support for Students site can be accessed through the link below:

- [DSU D2L Support Resources for Students](#)

Classroom Policies

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. After **three** absences, 10 points will be deducted from the attendance grade for each additional absence.

Late work will only be accepted with a documented excuse. Students may redo work they received an undesirable grade on once, but only if they turned in something by the original due date. The deadline for redoing work is a week after the original due date. After this time, no late work will be accepted

DSU Policies

Complaint Procedure

Dakota State University seeks to resolve student concerns and complaints in a fair and prompt manner. Students may file a complaint using the [DSU Concerns and Feedback form](#). SARA complaints from out-of-state students may be filed using the procedures noted [here](#).

Grade Appeal Policy

If a student believes the final grade assigned in a course was inappropriate, he/she may appeal that grade by filing a formal grade appeal within 15 days of the start of the next academic session. Please see the DSU policy on [Appealing Academic and Administrative Decisions](#) for the required process and form to appeal a final grade.

Student Verification Statement and Proctoring Policy

Federal law requires that universities verify the identity of students when course materials and/or course assessment activities are conducted either partially or entirely online. A student's Desire2Learn (D2L) login and password are intended to provide the student with secure access to course materials and are also intended to help the university meet this federal mandate. Some DSU Faculty also require the use of a proctor for exams in distance-delivered (Internet) courses and this requirement provides a second level of student identity verification. Students are responsible for any proctoring fees, if applicable. Finally, an instructor who uses web conferencing technology may require students to use a webcam during exams as another means of student identity verification through voice and visual recognition.

<< For online courses, include the verification method used for the course (i.e., proctoring, portfolio, oral exam, student observation, etc.) >>

South Dakota Board of Regents Policy Statements

Freedom in Learning Statement

Under Board of Regents and Regental Institutions policy, student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Discussion and debate are critical to education and professional development. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered

in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. While the exploration of controversial topics may be an important component of meeting the student learning outcomes in a course, no student will be compelled or directed to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to any divisive concepts (as defined in SDCL 13-1-67). Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact their home institution to initiate a review of the evaluation.

ADA Statement

The Regental Institutions strive to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and the Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Please note: if your home institution is not the institution you are enrolled at for a course (host institution), then you should contact your home institution's Office of Disability services. The disability services at the home and host institution will work together to ensure your request is evaluated and responded to in a timely manner.

Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct run contrary to the purposes of higher education and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying answers or work done by another student (either on an exam or an assignment), allowing another student to copy from you, and using unauthorized materials during an exam. The Regental Institution's policy and procedures on cheating and academic dishonesty can be found in your home institution's Student Handbook and the governing Board of Regents policies can be found in [BOR Policy 2.9.2](#) and [BOR Policy 3.4.1](#). The consequences for cheating and academic dishonesty are outlined in policy.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources: While Regental Institutions strive to provide access to computer labs and other technology, it is the student's responsibility to ensure adequate access to the technology required for a course. This may include access to a computer (not Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), webcam, internet, adequate bandwidth, etc. While utilizing any of the information technology systems students, faculty and staff should observe all relevant laws, regulations, [BOR Policy 7.1](#), and any institutional procedural requirements.

Emergency Alert Communication

In the event of an emergency arising on campus under [BOR Policy 7.3](#), your Regental Home Institution will notify the campus community via the emergency alert system. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their information is updated in the emergency alert system. The student's cell phone will be automatically inserted if available and if not, their email address is loaded. Students can at any time update their information the student alert system.