BUTTE COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

MUS 52 - Introduction to Recording Techniques   **3 Unit(s)**

Prerequisite(s): NONE
Recommended Prep: NONE

Transfer Status: CSU
25.5 hours Lecture
76.5 hours Lab

This course will instruct students in the fundamentals of studio recording techniques. Students will study elements of sound, signal flow, microphone techniques, digital recording and mixing consoles.

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
   A. Identify signal flow in the recording chain.
   B. Identify technical elements of sound, and studio acoustics.
   C. Evaluate necessary equipment in designing a recording studio.
   D. Apply learned skills in monitoring audio recording and playback.
   E. Identify the different types of microphones and the proper use of each type in recording situations.
   F. Properly place various microphones in a recording situation.
   G. Apply microphone techniques in a recording situation.
   H. Utilize digital recording applications.
   I. Explain the operation of mixing consoles.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture

Topics	Hours
1. The recording chain.	1.50
2. Elements of sound and theory of signals.	2.00
3. Studio acoustics.	1.00
4. Equipping a studio.	1.00
5. Methods of monitoring.	2.00
6. Microphone elements.	2.50
7. Microphone Techniques.	4.00
8. Digital recording.	3.00
9. Effects and signal processors.	3.50
10. Mixers and mixing consoles.	1.50
11. Mixer operation.	3.50
Total Hours	25.50

Lab

Topics	Hours
1. Examine studio recording chain.	2.00

2.	Apply skills learned in sound and signals.	3.00
3.	Set up and use of studio equipment.	3.00
4.	Monitoring exercises.	3.00
5.	Microphone choice and placement exercises.	6.00
6.	Apply concepts of digital recording.	3.00
7.	Apply use of effects in recording and mixing.	6.00
8.	In depth study of the mixer windows.	6.00
9.	The Mixer: Set up scenes and integration with software.	4.00
10.	Mixer control of software automation and playback.	6.00
11.	Class projects.	34.50
	Total Hours	76.50

IV. __METHODS OF INSTRUCTION__
   A. Lecture
   B. Collaborative Group Work
   C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
   D. Discussion
   E. Demonstrations
   F. Reading Assignments
   G. Multimedia Presentations

V. __METHODS OF EVALUATION__
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Projects
   C. Class participation
   D. Practical Evaluations

VI. __EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS__
   A. Reading Assignments
      1. Read the instructor-assigned textbook.
      2. Read handouts from the instructor as well as reference materials necessary for the preparation of research paper.
   B. Writing Assignments
      1. Prepare a research paper on some aspect of the recording process.
      2. Attend a concert a prepare a paper detailing your experience of the sound enhancement portion of the concert.
   C. Out-of-Class Assignments
      1. Use the computer lab to become familiar with recording software and practice any techniques learned in the classroom.
      2. Students will attend a concert.

VII. __RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION__
   Textbooks:
   A. Bartlett and Bartlett. _Practical Recording Techniques_. Fifth Edition. Focal Press, 2009.

Created/Revised by: Mark Latham
Date: 10/24/2011