

ADVANCED MIXING AND MASTERING

MUAE 3300.001 – FALL 2026

Class Time: 4:10p – 5:30p

Location: MUSI 287 and SPEC's LAB (239)

Instructor: Harlan Hodges

Office: MUSI 240

Office Hours: - Tuesdays 3pm - 4pm

Email: harlan.hodges@unt.edu

[Music Computer Lab and Studio](#) MUSI 238-239

HOLIDAYS

NO CLASS: September, 7th - Labor Day

NO CLASS: November 23th - 29th - Thanksgiving Break

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is a project-based deep dive into the world of advanced mixing and mastering techniques for professional audio. The course is designed to help students gain proficiency in post-production audio concepts that they can carry with them into their professional lives as they go out into the field. It is also meant to help those students who plan on releasing their own music as artists. Often, the post-production audio world requires individuals to cross many disciplines to become a valuable and productive collaborator. The recording studios, scoring stages, dubbing stages, and mix/master studios found throughout the world are constantly changing and updating with the latest cutting-edge technologies on the market; however, the core skillset and techniques of the audio professional remain the same. Students will be exposed to various formats, workflows, and delivery formats that reflect the industry standard of post-production audio and will develop a professional online portfolio of their body of work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To equip students with a thorough understanding of the multiple stages of post-production from creation to delivery of assets to clients.
- To give students creative approaches to mixing that they can apply to their own work and client's work.
- Aid students in speeding up their workflow to enhance their time management.
- Provide students with hands on vocational-style training.
- Help students gain confidence in moving recorded music into release-ready products.
- Develop an online portfolio for future clients and employers.

ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION

Students are encouraged to attend all classes, demos, field trips, and lectures to ensure they get the most out of the class. UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. Students are allowed 4 absences that are unexcused before their grade is affected. Each additional absence will drop their score by ½ letter grade. Excusable absences include Sickness, Emergency, Religious Holiday, School-related Functions, high-paying gigs **ONLY IF** the instructor is notified by email!

Students will be graded on their professional demeanor and participation in class. In the post-production world being on time is everything and so the beginning of each class period will be considered DOWNBEAT of a gig. Please ensure that you are on time and ready to work at the beginning of each class since there is a lot of material to cover and get through.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Course Textbook: Bobby Owsinski's - The Mix Engineer's Handbook.

Accessibility to Avid Pro Tools – Pro Tools Subscriptions can be purchased monthly from Avid.com for an excellent student rate.

RECOMMENDED (NOT REQUIRED!) SOFTWARE and HARDWARE MATERIALS

Secondary DAW of your choice: Cubase, Logic, Ableton Live, Nuendo, Reaper

Notation software of your choice: Dorico, Sibelius, MuseScore, or other

Laptop / iPad

MIDI Keyboard

Professional Headphones

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE EVENTS

Attendance is tracked via a **QR Code**. Students are responsible for monitoring the Commercial Music Microsoft Teams channel for the most current schedule updates.

Show Date Week Time Venue

Commerical Music

Showcase Tue, Sep 15 5 9p Syndicate

zebras Tue, Oct 20 10 9p Syndicate

Commerical Music

Showcase Mon, Oct 26 11 8p Lab West

Zebras Tue, Nov 17 14 8p Lab West

CM Departmental bi-weekly

(odd weeks) 12.45-1.35p MEIT (MU1001)

CLASS SCHEDULE (ALL DATED TBD by Week 2 of Class)

FIELD TRIPS:

SPEC's Research and Recording LAB (TBD)

LECTURES / HANDS ON ASSIGNMENTS:

Naming Conventions

Project Organization / Folder Structure / Client Share

Monitoring / Mono / Stereo / 5.1 Surround / Atmos

Gain Staging

Bussing / VCAs / FX

Channel Strip

Dynamic EQ

Side-Chain EQ

Advanced Gating Techniques

Side-Chain Compression

Mastering Compression

Limiting

Metering

Building Templates

Building Hardware Systems

File-Management / Naming Conventions

Client Delivery / Project Organization / Folder Structure / Client Share

AI Tools

Websites

Track Distribution / Online Platforms

Metadata / Mechanicals
Producing / Professionalism / Getting the gig

POTENTIAL GUEST LECTURES (All Dates and Schedule TBD):

Brad Cobb – Mixing Engineer / Mastering Engineer - LA Opera – Los Angeles, CA
Fred Vogler – Mixing Engineer / Mastering Engineer - LA Phil / Hollywood Bowl – Los Angeles, CA
Adam Michalak – Tracking Engineer / Mix Engineer - Hollywood Scoring – Los Angeles, CA
Alan Meyerson – Tracking Engineer / Mix Engineer – Los Angeles, CA
Scott Sedillo – Mastering Engineer - Berni Grundman Mastering – Los Angeles, CA
Gavin Lursen – Mastering Engineer - Gavin Lursen Mastering - Los Angeles, CA
Steve Genewick – Mix Engineer / Atmos Engineer
Chris Bell – Mix Engineer / Atmos Engineer / Recording Academy Texas Chapter

PROJECTS:

Students will be required to develop and deliver three projects during the semester. Discussions every class will be centered around the collective classroom's body of work. This will provide a unique opportunity for students to critique, revise, and develop their work "symposium-style" in a way that more accurately reflects a real-world environment.

The Mid-Term and Final Projects do not have to be composed or created by the individual within the class, but they MUST BE a new work / original from an artist found within the school. This also provides the student with the opportunity to choose exactly where they would like to place their focus.

Project No. 1 – Client Feedback | Delivery

Students will be assigned a project to mix and deliver to a client on a deadline. Students will be required to deliver the project in an online format to their client and receive feedback and two rounds of revisions that reflect the feedback given. In this simulated client scenario students will also act as the client giving feedback and necessary direction for delivery. This project works two-fold:

- 1) It allows you to learn how to manage and execute client expectations and feedback.
- 2) It helps you learn how to verbalize and give constructive direction to team members you may be managing someday.

Project No. 2 - Mid-Term | Delivery

Students are required to deliver a final mix / master of their second project that they will choose on their own. We will host a listening session during the Mid-Term where students can receive feedback and critique of their work. Feedback can be incorporated into a revision based on the student's discretion.

Project No. 3 - Final | Delivery:

Students are required to deliver a final mix / master of their third project that they will choose on their own. Students will additionally present all three projects they have completed during an in-class presentation of their online portfolio. Students should create an online presence for all three projects that will help them attract clientele and in a way that represents their brand and personal direction.

Students' final projects are a culmination of their entire semester's work and will be graded based on a variety of factors during the semester. Students should leave the course with a portfolio ready to take to employers.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students (Office of Academic Integrity), who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

See: [Academic Integrity](#)

LINK: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>

STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

See: [Student Code of Conduct](#)

Link: <https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>

ACCESS TO INFORMATION – EAGLE CONNECT

Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at my.unt.edu. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect.

See: [Eagle Connect](#)

LINK: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

ODA STATEMENT

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter. You can now request your Letters of Accommodation ONLINE and ODA will mail your Letters of Accommodation to your instructors. You may wish to begin a private discussion with your professors regarding your specific needs in a course. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester. For additional information see the Office of Disability Access.

See: [ODA](#)

LINK: disability.unt.edu. (Phone: (940) 565-4323)

Health and Safety Information

Students can access information about health and safety at: <https://music.unt.edu/student-health-and-wellness>

Registration Information for Students

See: [Fall Academic Calendar Information](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Semester Calendar, Fall 2026

See: [Fall Semester Calendar](#)

Link: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Undergraduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total hours registered. Students cannot exceed attempted credit hours above 150% of their required degree plan. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

Students holding music scholarships must maintain a minimum 2.5 overall cumulative GPA and 3.0 cumulative GPA in music courses.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended that you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course before doing so.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

Graduates

A student must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) to continue to receive financial aid. Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in addition to successfully completing a required number of credit hours based on total registered hours per term. Music scholarships require a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Students cannot exceed maximum timeframes established based on the published length of the graduate program. If a student does not maintain the required standards, the student may lose their financial aid eligibility.

If at any point you consider dropping this or any other course, please be advised that the decision to do so may have the potential to affect your current and future financial aid eligibility. It is recommended you schedule a meeting with an academic advisor in your college, an advisor in UNT-International or visit the Student Financial Aid and Scholarships office to discuss dropping a course.

See: [Financial Aid](#)

LINK: <http://financialaid.unt.edu/sap>

COUNSELING AND TESTING

UNT's Center for Counseling and Testing has an available counselor for students in need. Please visit the Center's website for further information:

See: [Counseling and Testing](#)

Link: <http://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services>.

For more information on mental health resources, please visit:

See: [Mental Health Resources](#)

Link: <https://disparities.unt.edu/mental-health-resources>

ADD/DROP POLICY

Please be reminded that dropping classes or failing to complete and pass registered hours may make you ineligible for financial aid. In addition, if you drop below half-time enrollment you may be required to begin paying back your student loans. See Academic Calendar (listed above) for additional add/drop Information.

Drop Information: <https://registrar.unt.edu/registration/fall-academic-calendar.html>

STUDENT RESOURCES

The University of North Texas has many resources available to students. For a complete list, go to:

See: [Student Resources](#)

Link: <https://success.unt.edu/aa-sa-resources>

CARE TEAM

The Care Team is a collaborative interdisciplinary committee of university officials that meets regularly to provide a response to student, staff, and faculty whose behavior could be harmful to themselves or others.

See: [Care Team](#)

Link: <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/care-team>

Additional Resources for Faculty

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (including sample statement for syllabi)

See: [Faculty Guide for the Use of AI](#)

Link: <https://guides.library.unt.edu/artificial-intelligence/AIfaculty>

RETENTION OF STUDENT RECORDS

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates.

See: [FERPA](#)

Link: <http://ferpa.unt.edu/>

