

Instructor:**Mailbox:****Phone:****Office:****Office Hours:****Course Chair:** Melissa Howe**Description:** This course provides an understanding of the technology available for effective performances in non-acoustic situations. Topics covered include pickups, microphones, electric instruments, amplifiers, effects, stage sound/ monitors, mixers, recording acoustic instruments, recording electric instruments, and how to take care of your acoustic instrument.**Course Objective:** The goal of this class is to give the student a thorough understanding of how electronics work in various non-acoustic situations. Since the world is always changing the class aims to give the student not only specifics about particular equipment and its uses but also a general understanding of the field. String players often find themselves light years behind other students in the study of electronics. This class aims also to encourage the students to explore and develop their own use of the technology available to them.**Required Text(s):** None. Teacher will provide handouts.**Coursework and Out-of-Class Preparation:** There will be performed weekly assignments. In order to maintain satisfactory standing in this class, approximately 3 hours per week of out-of-class preparation are recommended.**Midterm:** TBA**Final:** TBA**Grading Criteria:**
A (90-100) Superior; demonstrates mastery of course material.
B (80-89) Good; demonstrates above-average comprehension of course material.
C (70-79) Average; demonstrates adequate comprehension of course material.
D (60-69) Below Average; demonstrates poor but passable awareness of course material.
F (below 60) Not Passing; demonstrates insufficient assimilation of course material.**Final Grade Determination:**
15% Attendance
20% Attitude
15% Participation
25% Midterm Project
25% Final Project**Attendance Policy:** Unexcused absence(s) may result in a course grade of "F".**Deadline for Course Withdrawal:** 5:00 PM, Friday following Midterm Week. See Academic Calendar.
Withdrawal from a course may not be initiated after that date.

Withdrawal Policy: You may withdraw from this class by completing a *Student-Initiated Withdrawal from a Class* form at the Office of the Registrar. The withdrawal form must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar before the end of the 9th week of classes in Fall and Spring semesters, or the end of the 8th week in the 12-week Summer Session. If you submit the withdrawal form by the deadline, you will receive a grade of “W” for the class. Withdrawing from a class cannot be done after the deadline.

The instructor will **not** withdraw you from the class for any reason (including absence) or submit the form for you. It is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. If you withdraw from this class, you continue to be financially responsible for the class and are not eligible for a tuition refund or replacement course. Please be aware that withdrawing from a class may affect scholarship, financial aid, and/or international student visa status. If you receive financial aid or veterans' benefits, your eligibility for aid may be reduced by withdrawing. If you are an international student, you may jeopardize your F-1 visa status.

In case of doubt about your status and options, ask the instructor, department chair and/or the Counseling & Advising Center.

Topical Course Outline

Class breakdown

- 1) Overview - explanation of the work involved and what's expected from the student.
- 2) How to care for your acoustic instrument - a visiting artist, a local string repairman, will discuss how to keep your instrument healthy, how often to get a sound post adjustment, bow repair, finger board planed, what are the danger signs of cracks, etc.
- 3) Mics - a description of the various mics available, how they work, which sound better than others, what are the pitfalls. You will have the opportunity to try several and hear other play thru them.
- 4) Pickups - same as above.
- 5) Electric instruments - same as above.
- 6) Amplifiers - a discussion of the effects available on most amplifiers - eq, gain, reverb, chorus. You will have the opportunity to try several in class and will be expected to report on others used in ensembles and retail stores.
- 7) Effects - stomp boxes
- 8) Effects - processors
- 9) Stage Sound - During 2 weeks the class will take place in 1W. This week the best sound in the audience.
- 10) Stage Sound - This week the best stage sound. Ear plugs.
- 11) Recording - an overview
- 12) Recording - these next 2 classes will take place in the studio. This week recording acoustically. A survey of which recording mics to use and where to put them. Headphone mixes, how to change the sound once recorded.
- 13) Recording - this week recording with a pickup or electric instrument.
- 14) Loose ends, overflows.