



Master Course Syllabus

For additional course information, including prerequisites, corequisites, and course fees, please refer to the Catalog: <https://catalog.uvu.edu/>

Semester: Spring

Course Prefix: DAPR

Course Title: Digital Audio Essentials

Year: 2025

Course and Section #: 2000-001

Credits: 3

Course Description

Reviews basic sound principles, cable types, microphone types, and basic techniques of use. Teaches recording of basic sounds and musical instruments into a Digital Audio Workstation. Introduces multi-track audio, editing, EQing, mixing, and mastering a 3-minute piece with voice and music. Includes a final project consisting of a multi-track music project designed for use in film, commercial radio, or other multimedia applications. Software fee of \$15 applies. Lab access fee of \$45 for computers applies.

Course Attributes

This course has the following attributes:

- General Education Requirements
- Global/Intercultural Graduation Requirements
- Writing Enriched Graduation Requirements
- Discipline Core Requirements in Program
- Elective Core Requirements in Program
- Open Elective

Other: *Click here to enter text.*

Instructor Information

Instructor Name: Arlen L. Card, Associate Professor

Student Learning Outcomes

- 1 – Explain sound and hearing, frequency, amplitude, wavelength, basic acoustics, and the concept of the dB.
- 2 – Describe the function of the recording studio, control room, good sound control techniques, job titles and job roles.
- 3 – Classify the proper use of different cable types.
- 4 – Interpret different microphone types, patterns and their applications.
- 5 – Characterize stereo microphone techniques such as coincident XY, near-coincident and spaced pair.
- 6 – Analyze signal processors and effects: EQ, compression, gating, reverb, and delay.
- 7 – Explain the digital domain: bit depth, sample rate, and their effects on sound.
- 8 – Mix edit and master for final product release.

Course Materials and Texts

No required text. Information delivered via lecture.

Recommended supplemental readings:

Mix Smart: Alex U. Case

Modern Recording Techniques: Huber/Runstein

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy

Date Due	Details
Fri Jan 17, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 01 – 8 Properties of a Sound Wave
Fri Jan 31, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 02 – The Decibel
Fri Feb 07, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 03 – Cabling, Connectors, Gain Staging, and Signal Flow
Fri Feb 14, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 04 – Microphones
Fri Feb 21, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 05 – Filters & EQ
Fri Feb 28, 2025, 9:00am	Midterm Exam
Fri Mar 07, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 06 – Compression
Fri Mar 21, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 07 – Time-based FX
Fri Mar 28, 2025, 11:59pm	Canvas Quiz 08 – Digital
Mon Apr 14, 2025, 11:59pm	Mix Project
Mon Apr 28, 2025, 11:59pm	Pro Tools Digital Audio Workstation Basics Assessment
Mon Apr 28, 2025, 11:00am	Final Exam (on Canvas)
Mon Apr 28, 2025, 11:59 pm	SRI Receipt

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEETING ALL DEADLINES AND DUE DATES!

- Each student is expected to take an active role in the learning process by meeting course requirements as specified in the written syllabus, and as amended in class.
- Each student is required to **be attentive during class** so as to not miss details regarding the subject matter of the course.
- Each student is expected to display appropriate conduct in classroom situations, which will enhance the learning environment. This includes not being disruptive or excessively interruptive.
- Don't miss class. Only a small portion of what I teach comes from the text, and you will be responsible for all the material, whether you were there or not. Also, in addition to my role at UVU as professor, I am an active music producer and still maintain a law practice: I cannot re-teach in-class concepts out of class to those who choose not to attend. My office hours are to help those who attended and tried, but still do not understand a concept, not those who needed to ski or golf or study for some other class, or "Facebook." Of course, if you're ill, please stay home and keep your microbes to yourself, but you will still need to get notes from a fellow student, so make some friends....
- Late assignments will be docked, and will get zero credit after two weeks of the announced due date, so get them in on time. In the audio industry, if you miss a deadline, you're fired. Consider this class your first gig in the real-world audio industry. (Note: In rare instances – a death in the immediate family, the birth of your first child – I can be swayed, but not with circumstances that

arose out of your own procrastination or failure to look ahead and manage your course load.) The last day of class in the semester is an absolute cutoff for all assignments, regardless of the two-week statement above.

NOTE: There is a fairly comprehensive study guide for this course in the Files folder on Canvas. It is intended as a guide and a refresher, but will not replace attendance and participation for learning the concepts and techniques taught in class. Use it as an additional learning tool, not as a shortcut, please.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory because this is a lab/experiential course. Most of what's tested is delivered in class, not from reading. Roll is called on a random basis, usually when too many students are absent. **Each absence and tardy docks points from your attendance grade**, a 100-point total. When you must be absent, get good notes from fellow students (see the above rants). Also, if you are ill, just let me know and do not come share your microbes. Illness is an excused absence as long as you tell me, up to the second such absence. You are still responsible to get the class notes from a fellow student.

GRADING INFORMATION:

Grading Standards:

A = 95% & above A- = 90 - 94 B+ = 87 - 89 B = 83 - 86 B- = 80 - 82 C+ = 77 - 79
C = 73 - 76 C - = 70 - 72 D+ = 67 - 69 D = 63 - 66 D - = 60 - 62 E/F (failing) = Below 60

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments

TBA

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion

Week	Topic
1	Intro, Overview: Relevancy to You, Properties of Sound Waves
2	Sound and Hearing: Properties of Waves, Acoustics, concluded; The Decibel Intro
3	The Decibel, concluded; The Balanced Line, Signal Flow, Gain Staging, Connectors
4	Microphone Design, Patterns and Application, Stereo Mic Placement Techniques
5	EQ and Filters; Digital Audio Workstation Intro
6	Audio Compression, Settings, Application, Special Types;
7	Time-Based Signal Processors, Reverb, Delay
8	Mixing Basics, Monitoring the Mix, Psycho-Acoustics
9	Mixing, Intermediate; Putting It All Together
10	Mixing, Wrap-up; Being a Producer
11	Mixing Practicum; Troubleshooting
12	Mixing Practicum; Troubleshooting
13	Basic Mastering Techniques
14	Review and Special Topics
15	Review and Special Topics, cont'd

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Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI

If you're tempted to query AI for additional answers or clarifications on the material for this class, I recommend against it. There is no AI at this point that is technically adept enough to answer audio questions in a clearer or easier-to-understand way than we, as the audio faculty, have figured out after years of teaching this material and trying to get it to its simplest and easiest-to-understand form.

Using Remote Testing Software

This course does not use remote testing software.

This course uses remote testing software. Remote test-takers may choose their remote testing locations. Please note, however, that the testing software used for this may conduct a brief scan of remote test-takers' immediate surroundings, may require use of a webcam while taking an exam, may require the microphone be on while taking an exam, or may require other practices to confirm academic honesty. Test-takers therefore shall have no expectation of privacy in their test-taking location during, or immediately preceding, remote testing. If a student strongly objects to using test-taking software, the student should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to determine whether alternative testing arrangements are feasible. Alternatives are not guaranteed.

Required University Syllabus Statements

Accommodations/Students with Disabilities

Students needing accommodations due to a permanent or temporary disability, pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions may contact UVU [Accessibility Services](#) at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu or 801-863-8747.

Accessibility Services is located on the Orem Campus in BA 110.

Deaf/Hard of Hearing students requesting ASL interpreters or transcribers can contact Accessibility Services to set up accommodations. Deaf/Hard of Hearing services can be contacted at DHHservices@uvu.edu

DHH is located on the Orem Campus in BA 112.

Academic Integrity

At Utah Valley University, faculty and students operate in an atmosphere of mutual trust. Maintaining an atmosphere of academic integrity allows for free exchange of ideas and enables all members of the community to achieve their highest potential. Our goal is to foster an intellectual atmosphere that produces scholars of integrity and imaginative thought. In all academic work, the ideas and contributions of others must be appropriately acknowledged and UVU students are expected to produce their own original academic work.

Faculty and students share the responsibility of ensuring the honesty and fairness of the intellectual environment at UVU. Students have a responsibility to promote academic integrity at the university by not participating in or facilitating others' participation in any act of academic dishonesty. As members of the academic community, students must become familiar with their [rights and responsibilities](#). In each course, they are responsible for knowing the requirements and restrictions regarding research and writing, assessments, collaborative work, the use of study aids, the appropriateness of assistance, and other issues. Likewise, instructors are responsible to clearly state expectations and model best practices.

Further information on what constitutes academic dishonesty is detailed in [UVU Policy 541: Student Code of Conduct](#).

Equity and Title IX

Utah Valley University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 and over), disability, veteran status, pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related conditions, citizenship, genetic information, or other basis protected by applicable law, including Title IX and 34 C.F.R. Part 106, in employment, treatment, admission, access to educational programs and activities, or other University benefits or services. Inquiries about nondiscrimination at UVU may be directed to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights or UVU's Title IX Coordinator at 801-863-7999 – TitleIX@uvu.edu – 800 W University Pkwy, Orem, 84058, Suite BA 203.

Religious Accommodation

UVU values and acknowledges the array of worldviews, faiths, and religions represented in our student body, and as such provides supportive accommodations for students. Religious belief or conscience broadly includes religious, non-religious, theistic, or non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as well as participation in religious holidays, observances, or activities. Accommodations may include scheduling or due-date modifications or make-up assignments for missed class work.

To seek a religious accommodation, a student must provide written notice to the instructor and the Director of Accessibility Services at accessibilityservices@uvu.edu. If the accommodation relates to a scheduling conflict, the notice should include the date, time, and brief description of the difficulty posed by the conflict. Such requests should be made as soon as the student is aware of the prospective scheduling conflict.

While religious expression is welcome throughout campus, UVU also has a [specially dedicated space](#) for meditation, prayer, reflection, or other forms of religious expression.