UVU UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY™

Master Course Syllabus

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

Semester: Spring　　　　　　　　　　　　**Year:** 2025
Course Prefix: DAPR　　　　　　　　　　**Course and Section #:** 4220-001
Course Title: Audio Mastering　　　　　　**Credits:** 3

Course Description

Prerequisites: Portfolio review and acceptance, or instructor approval in special cases. Completion of foundational audio courses is expected.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of audio mastering, the final stage of the audio production process. Unlike production and mixing, mastering requires an objective approach to enhance the sound quality and prepare audio for distribution. Key topics include:

- Understanding the objective standards for high-quality mastering.

- Exploring the roles of the Mixing Engineer, Mastering Engineer, and Aggregator (digital distribution house).

- Developing critical listening habits for evaluating and improving audio quality.

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: Bryan Sansom

Student Learning Outcomes

- Gain experience managing and contributing to large professional projects.

- Meet deadlines and fulfill team responsibilities effectively.

- Address and exceed client expectations in a manner that ensures positive feedback.

- Produce a portfolio-worthy project showcasing skills and professionalism.

Course Materials and Texts

- **Textbook:** *Practical Mastering* (eBook edition recommended, free version available).

- Additional materials and resources will be distributed through Canvas.

Course Requirements

Course Assignments, Assessments, and Grading Policy
By the end of the semester, students will:

1. Develop a deep understanding of both the technical and creative aspects of audio mastering.

2. Apply critical listening skills to identify and address audio issues.

3. Research and compose a detailed paper on compressor styles and their applications.

4. Complete professional-quality assignments and projects that align with industry standards.

5. Deliver a final, polished mastering project demonstrating mastery of course content.

Required or Recommended Reading Assignments
See Canvas

General Description of the Subject Matter of Each Lecture or Discussion
1. **Research Paper:** Write a detailed paper on compression techniques and their impact on audio mastering.

2. **Hands-On Projects:** Complete assignments focusing on real-world mastering scenarios.

3. **Final Project ("The Big One"):** Submit a professional mastering project showcasing your skills.

Week 1	Course Introduction	Syllabus quiz
Week 2	Critical Listening Techniques	Listening exercise
Week 3	Compression Basics	Research topic proposal
Week 4	EQ and Frequency Balance	In-class project

Week 5   Advanced Mastering Techniques Written assignment

Week 6   Loudness and Dynamics   Midterm preparation

Week 7   Mastering for Different Formats Rough draft review

Week 8   Midterm Exam

Week 9   Real-World Mastering Scenarios Peer reviews

Week 10 Signal Analysis and Tools   Final project outline

Week 11 Professional Delivery Formats   Project checkpoint

Week 12 Final Project Work   Ongoing project updates

Week 13 Final Project Presentation   Submission of final project

Required Course Syllabus Statements

Generative AI
Generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Google Bard) are permitted for the following activities:

- Brainstorming and refining ideas

- Fine-tuning research questions

- Finding information

- Drafting outlines

- Checking grammar and style

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.