# MECO839

## Music Production

S1 Day 2016

*Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies*

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## General Information

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**

**Convenor**
Mary Mainsbridge  
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**Contact via Email**
Y3A 165E  
By appointment

**Studio Technician**
Ben Nash  
ben.nash@mq.edu.au

**By appointment**

**Credit points**
4

**Prerequisites**
Admission to MCrMedia or MCrInd

**Corequisites**

**Co-badged status**

**Unit description**
This unit explores essential techniques of analysis and music production through attendance at, and contribution to, a series of seminars and workshops on relevant topics. Areas covered include: analysis methodologies, creative use of technology, the rise of production through the history of recorded music, specialist technical topics and changing techniques through interface development.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/](http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/)

## Learning Outcomes

1. Differentiate key approaches to music production
2. Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
3. Research advanced practice and literature in the field
4. Apply research skills to music production
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project proposal and plan</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Week 4 - March 24, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Production Draft</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 8 - May 6, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music Production Project</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Week 13 - June 10, 2016</td>
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Project proposal and plan

Due: **Week 4 - March 24, 2016**  
Weighting: **30%**

Students will propose a small music production project and generate a written proposal and project plan (2000 words). The proposal will clearly outline the scope, focus and aesthetic aims of the project; key reference works from practice; and a project plan (with key dates) for execution and final delivery within an allocated parcel of studio hours.

The proposal will be submitted via the Turnitin link provided on the unit's iLearn page.

**Assessment Criteria:**

- Capacity to scope a minor music production project
- Ability to locate a musical project within the field of practice and in relation to key musical influences
- Capacity to conceive and design an effective production approach within a given resource context
- Clarity of written proposal

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
- Research advanced practice and literature in the field

Music Production Draft

Due: **Week 8 - May 6, 2016**  
Weighting: **25%**

Students will submit a rough mix of tracking sessions and working session files (Pro Tools session folder), annotated in software to professional standards. These materials are to be
accompanied by a 1000 word evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the progress to date in respect of captured performances/takes, musical arrangement/structure, and recording quality.

Production sessions will be uploaded to a specified server location. This will be further explained in the seminars.

Assessment Criteria:

- Capacity to demonstrate professional practices in the management, annotation, and presentation of audio materials
- Evidence of technical skills in studio based recording
- Ability to critically evaluate the creative and performance outcomes of recording sessions.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
- Apply research skills to music production

Music Production Project

Due: Week 13 - June 10, 2016
Weighting: 45%

Students will submit a finished music recording of 1-2 tracks, mixed and delivered according to professional standards.

Finished mixes will be uploaded to a specified server location. This will be further explained in the seminars.

Assessment Criteria:

- Capacity to demonstrate professional practices in the management, annotation, and presentation of audio materials
- Evidence of technical skills in studio based recording
- Ability to critically evaluate the creative and performance outcomes of recording sessions.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
- Research advanced practice and literature in the field
Apply research skills to music production

Delivery and Resources

Delivery

This unit will be delivered as 1 x 2 hour studio seminar/practical per week

Suggested Readings:

Eno, B. (2007) A Year With Swollen Appendices. Canongate

This unit uses iLearn.

Further details on the iLearn site.

Unit Schedule

Details on ilearn unit page

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in *eStudent*. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

**Additional information**


Information is correct at the time of publication

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Workshops**
Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Assessment tasks

- Project proposal and plan
- Music Production Draft
- Music Production Project

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
Assessment tasks

- Project proposal and plan
- Music Production Draft
- Music Production Project

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Research advanced practice and literature in the field
- Apply research skills to music production

Assessment tasks

- Project proposal and plan
- Music Production Project

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Research advanced practice and literature in the field
- Apply research skills to music production

Assessment task

- Music Production Project

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically
supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Differentiate key approaches to music production
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire

**Assessment tasks**

- Project proposal and plan
- Music Production Draft
- Music Production Project

**PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens**

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- Apply research skills to music production