



# MECO839

## Music Production Analysis and Research

S2 Day 2013

*Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies*

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## General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Y3A 165F

By appointment

Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MCrMedia or PGCertCrMedia

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 <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

Differentiate key methodological approaches to music production analysis

Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire

Research advanced literature in the field

Apply research skills in the area of music production critical analysis

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Critical Reading Notes/Reviews	30%	Continuous
Industry Journal Analysis	20%	Friday October 18th
Research Paper	50%	Friday November 1st

### Critical Reading Notes/Reviews

Due: **Continuous**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will develop a series of critical notes and reviews of readings relevant to a series of scheduled seminar sessions on selected topics. Total 5,000 words

#### Marking Criteria:

- Quality of analysis
- Clarity of presentation of findings
- Quality of written paper
- Ability to summarise

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

### Industry Journal Analysis

Due: **Friday October 18th**

Weighting: **20%**

This is an ilearn Forum exercise based on articles provided throughout the semester. Students are to read and discuss relevant issues and ideas that emerge from articles and discussions in standard industry publications such as Audio Technology, Sound on Sound and forums such as

“Gearschutz”.

### **Marking Criteria:**

- Depth of engagement with key issues
- Ability to provide collegial and appropriate responses and feedback to the posts of others
- Evidence of use of scholarly sources to support positions/discussion

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Differentiate key methodological approaches to music production analysis
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire
- Apply research skills in the area of music production critical analysis

## **Research Paper**

Due: **Friday November 1st**

Weighting: **50%**

Students are required to locate an area of interest within the fields of studio music production or location recording, then explore a relevant research problem in the area. Findings are to be presented in a 20 minute seminar paper presented in weeks 9, 10 and 11, and final, fully referenced written papers are to be handed in by the end of week 12. The written paper should be no longer than 3500 words.

### **Marking Criteria:**

- Identification of research question/problem
- Development and application of methodology
- Quality of analysis
- Clarity of presentation of findings
- Quality of written paper

On successful completion you will be able to:

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

## Delivery and Resources

### Required Readings:

Barbour, E., 1998. "The cool sound of tubes" [vacuum tube musical applications]. *Spectrum, IEEE*, 35(8), pp.24–35.

Moylan, W., 2007. "Understanding and Crafting the Mix" in *the Art of Recording* 2nd ed., Burlington, MA: Focal Press.

O'Connell, J., 1992. "The Fine-Tuning of a Golden Ear: High-End Audio and the Evolutionary Model of Technology." *Technology and Culture*, 33(1), pp.1–37.

Perlman, M., 2004. "Golden Ears and Meter Readers: The Contest for Epistemic Authority in Audiophilia." *Social Studies of Science*, 34(5), pp.783–807.

Pinch, T. & Bijsterveld, K., 2004. "Sound Studies: New Technologies and Music." *Social Studies of Science*, 34(5), pp.635–648.

Théberge, P., 2004. "The Network Studio: Historical and Technological Paths to a New Ideal in Music Making." *Social Studies of Science*, 34(5), pp.759–781.

Thompson, E., 1995. "Machines, Music, and the Quest for Fidelity: Marketing the Edison Phonograph in America, 1877-1925." *The Musical Quarterly*, 79(1), pp.131–171.

This unit uses iLearn.

Further details on iLearn unit page.

## 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:

Academic Honesty Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic\\_honesty/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html)

Assessment Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy [http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance\\_management/policy.html](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html)

Special Consideration Policy [http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special\\_consideration/policy.html](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/special_consideration/policy.html)

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

### UniWISE provides:

- Online learning resources and academic skills workshops [http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning\\_skills/](http://www.students.mq.edu.au/support/learning_skills/)
- Personal assistance with your learning & study related questions.
- The Learning Help Desk is located in the Library foyer (level 2).
- Online and on-campus orientation events run by Mentors@Macquarie.

## Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## Student Enquiries

Details of these services can be accessed at <http://www.student.mq.edu.au/ses/>.

## IT Help

If you wish to receive IT help, we would be glad to assist you at <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the university's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students and it outlines what can be done.

## Graduate Capabilities

### 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 methodological approaches to music production analysis
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire

## **Assessment tasks**

- Critical Reading Notes/Reviews
- Industry Journal Analysis
- Research Paper

## **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 methodological approaches to music production analysis
- Research advanced literature in the field
- Apply research skills in the area of music production critical analysis

## **Assessment tasks**

- Critical Reading Notes/Reviews
- Research Paper

## **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 literature in the field
- Apply research skills in the area of music production critical analysis

## **Assessment task**

- Research Paper

## 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 methodological approaches to music production analysis
- Contextualise aesthetic discussion by developing an understanding of relevant repertoire

### Assessment tasks

- Critical Reading Notes/Reviews
- Industry Journal Analysis
- Research Paper

## 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 in the area of music production critical analysis

## 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

- Critical Reading Notes/Reviews
- Industry Journal Analysis
- Research Paper