MECO838
The Art of Recording
S2 Day 2017

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/76365/unit_guide/print
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Denis Crowdy
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Contact via denis.crowdy@mq.edu.au

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MCrMedia or MCrInd or MFJ or MCreIndMFJ

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit examines recorded sound and its relation to society. Areas of investigation include changes in technology and cultural context, expectations of fidelity, remote and field recording issues and practice, production values, media and distribution, recording ethics and relevant legal issues.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

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

- Critically evaluate the history of recorded sound and technology
- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Investigate changes in technology use in the field of sound recording
- Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration
- Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

General Assessment Information

Late Submissions
Tasks 10% or less. No extensions will be granted. Students who have not submitted the task prior to the deadline will be awarded a mark of 0 for the task, except for cases in which an
application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

Tasks above 10%. Students who submit late work without an extension will receive a penalty of 10% per day. This penalty does not apply for cases in which an application for Disruption to Studies is made and approved.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical summaries and notes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Continuous from week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production analysis portfolio</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>From week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegesis</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Critical summaries and notes**
Due: **Continuous from week 3**
Weighting: **30%**

A series of readings are presented throughout the course, and students are to write critical summaries of a selection of these readings. These will be assessed starting in week 3 on an ongoing basis.

Submission via iLearn/Turnitin

Assessment criteria:

- Ability to summarise effectively
- Effectiveness of research and analysis skills
- Clarity and quality of writing and understanding of appropriate style

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Critically evaluate the history of recorded sound and technology
- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society

**Production analysis portfolio**
Due: **From week 8**
Weighting: **45%**

In consultation with the convenor/tutor, students will research three selected areas of recorded music production, and explore these through guided recordings. Each component is to be presented to the class from week 8, guided by notes from the accompanying exegesis assessment. The final portfolio is to be handed in at the end of week 13.
Submission via iLearn and ISIS file server (for large audio projects)

Assessment criteria:

- Depth of conceptual and practical engagement with production analysis
- Adherence to technical and audio quality requirements

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Investigate changes in technology use in the field of sound recording
- Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration
- Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

Exegesis

Due: Week 13

Weighting: 25%

Students are to describe and analyse the selection of and processes involved in recordings created for the production analysis portfolio. This will be used to present each component of the production analysis portfolio starting in week 8.

Submission via iLearn/Turnitin

Assessment criteria:

- Communication of production process and problems encountered
- Clarity and quality of writing and appropriateness of style
- Evidence of engagement with core concepts

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Investigate changes in technology use in the field of sound recording
- Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

Delivery and Resources

Recommended Readings (digital access via MultiSearch)

Azenha, Gustavo S. “The Internet and the Decentralisation of the Popular Music Industry: Critical


Porcello, Thomas. “Speaking of Sound: Language and the Professionalization of Sound-Recording Engineers.” *Social Studies of Science* 34, no. 5 (October 1, 2004): 733–58.


**Unit Schedule**

See iLearn

**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 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
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).
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:

Learning outcome

• Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration

Assessment tasks

• Critical summaries and notes
• Production analysis portfolio

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

• Critically evaluate the history of recorded sound and technology
• Investigate changes in technology use in the field of sound recording
• Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration
• Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

Assessment tasks

• Critical summaries and notes
• Production analysis portfolio
• Exegesis

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**

- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Investigate changes in technology use in the field of sound recording
- Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

**Assessment tasks**

- Production analysis portfolio
- Exegesis

**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**

- Critically evaluate the history of recorded sound and technology
- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

**Assessment tasks**

- Production analysis portfolio
- Exegesis

**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**

- Examine scholarship on recording and its relationship to society
- Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration
**Assessment tasks**

- Critical summaries and notes
- Production analysis portfolio
- Exegesis