



MUS 300

Advanced Music Production

S1 Day 2018

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor

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Y3A 193G

By appointment

Studio Technician

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By appointment

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

MUS203

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

Building on MUS203, this unit examines advanced techniques for music production. Moving beyond desktop music production and software tools, students learn about the recording studio environment using studio hardware and production tools. It addresses areas including: digital audio theory; microphone techniques and placement; fundamentals of audio engineering; and mixing and mastering concepts. Students produce original creative music works using a fully-equipped music studio, gaining practical studio experience. Further aspects of this unit include the establishment of critical listening skills, research of specific musical genres, and the development of an understanding of audio production concepts in a recording studio environment. Students obtain a knowledge base which may be applied to many areas of music production in real-world contexts, and create recordings that incorporate a practical and theoretical understanding of contemporary music production.

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:

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

General Assessment Information

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply - two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date - and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (including weekends) after the original submission deadline, No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments - eg quizzes, online tests.

Assessment standards in this unit align with the University's grade descriptors, available at: <http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Participation	10%	No	Continuous
Audio Theory Quiz	20%	No	Week 5 tutorial
Guided recording tasks	20%	No	Week 9 tutorial
Production Project	30%	No	Week 13 tutorial
Exegesis	20%	No	Week 13 tutorial

Participation

Due: **Continuous**

Weighting: **10%**

Participation includes both iLearn and tutorial participation. You will complete iLearn and tutorial tasks when given. You should also be prepared to discuss essential concepts and progress in tutorials.

Assessment criteria:

- participation in iLearn forums and in tutorial discussion
- evidence of steady progress on production projects and written/research projects
- readiness to engage in discussion in tutorials, and quality of engagement

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
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- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Audio Theory Quiz

Due: **Week 5 tutorial**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will complete an online quiz on audio and microphone theory material delivered in Weeks 1-4.

Assessment criteria:

- Demonstrate an understanding of essential concepts
- Show evidence of understanding of material discussed in class

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Guided recording tasks

Due: **Week 9 tutorial**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will undertake a series of guided recording tasks from week 4, and these are to be presented as a portfolio of recordings and associated notes.

Required submission materials and format will be discussed in tutorials and specified on iLearn.

Assessment criteria:

- Demonstrate an understanding of essential concepts and practical application
- Show evidence of applying material discussed in class

- Presentation of work in appropriate formats with relevant documentation

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Production Project

Due: **Week 13 tutorial**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will produce a multitrack recording in any style, delivered as a project file conforming to professional standards. The recording must demonstrate advanced recording and production techniques, including multiple (at least 8) tracks, at least 2 tracks of recorded material from live performers using Recording Studio 2, group tracks, send/FX/aux busses, automation, full track naming, and track notes.

Note: Any samples used must be copyright cleared (eg. from sample libraries) or Creative Commons licensed. All samples must be acknowledged on an accompanying Reference List.

Required submission materials and format will be discussed in tutorials and specified on iLearn.

Assessment criteria:

- Demonstrate advanced recording and production techniques
- Show evidence of applying material discussed in class
- Presentation of work in appropriate formats with relevant documentation
- Demonstrate effective project and time management
- Meet tracking and rough mix milestone deadlines

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Exegesis

Due: **Week 13 tutorial**

Weighting: **20%**

Students will submit a 1500 word exegesis to accompany Production Project 2. A satisfactory

report will demonstrate the project aims and scope, its creative context, progression of the project, research materials used, any problems that were encountered (either creative or technical) and the steps that were taken to overcome them, and a critical reflection on the project.

Assessment criteria:

- Quality of communication of project progress
- Communication of problems encountered and approaches to solving them
- Clear, relevant, well crafted written communication
- Evidence of appropriate critical reflection

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Delivery and Resources

Lectures and tutorials begin in week 1

Attendance

Students are required to attend all lectures and tutorials for this unit. Lecture and tutorial attendance is compulsory, and missing more than two tutorials without medical certification or evidence of disruption will result in a Fail grade for the 10% 'Participation' component. To avoid being penalised for missing a tutorial, medical certification or other evidence of disruption must be provided. A roll will be taken in the first 10 minutes of every tutorial; students entering late are responsible for making themselves known to the tutor so they can be marked as in attendance.

Website/iLearn

MUS300 will make use of iLearn. The MUS300 iLearn unit may be accessed from within the music labs or from off-campus at [http:// www.ilearn.mq.edu.au](http://www.ilearn.mq.edu.au).

Required Equipment

You will need to bring a pair of good quality headphones to tutorials each week. In-ear (iPod-style) headphones are not appropriate. Consider your headphones an investment. Technical staff will provide advice if necessary. You will need a Mac-compatible portable hard drive or USB memory sticks (8GB or more) in order to back up and transfer projects from the server.

Music Lab and Recording Studio 2

You may make use of the Y3A Music Lab at any time when there are no classes taking place.

The opening hours for the Music Lab will be 9–5 on weekdays, with possible extensions; this will be discussed in lectures/tutorials. Recording Studio 2 and Practice Room facilities may be booked via the online booking system. Details for the online booking system are provided on iLearn, and this procedure will be outlined in tutorials/lectures. Students will be given a set allocation of studio time per week. It is up to students to manage their studio time effectively in relation to the assessment tasks.

Software Compatibility

It is your own responsibility to ensure that any work undertaken outside of the Music computer labs is fully functional within and compatible with the production software currently installed on the computers in the lab and recording studio. Working within other software platforms outside Cubase or Pro Tools is not recommended, as this has caused significant problems for students in the past. Additional plug-ins outside those provided on the lab and studio workstations should not be used, unless mixed down to audio format (this should be discussed beforehand with your tutor).

Assignment Submission

There are no hard-copy submissions for MUS300. Written assignments and iLearn tasks will be completed/submitted via iLearn. Production projects will be uploaded to the specified server location. This will be further explained in tutorials.

Return of Marked Work

Marked work will be returned to students in tutorials or through iLearn.

Extensions

Extensions will only be granted on grounds of illness or misadventure, where appropriate supporting documentation is submitted, and are awarded at the discretion of the course convenor.

Referencing Style

Preferred referencing styles include Harvard (http://libweb.anglia.ac.uk/referencing/harvard.htm?harvard_id=24#24) and APA (<http://www.usq.edu.au/library/help/referencing/apa.htm>). Either or any style may be used as long as all necessary information is provided and a consistent approach is taken.

Recommended Reading and Research

The recommended readings for this unit are intended to supplement your core production work, as well as enhancing your understanding of concepts taught throughout the course. Readings will not be objectively assessed from week to week, however students should broaden their understanding of concepts and practices relating to music production by completing all relevant recommended readings and referring to them where appropriate in the Exegesis (20%).

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/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/study/getting-started/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.

Additional information

MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/departments/media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/

MMCCS Session Re-mark Application <http://www.mq.edu.au/pubstatic/public/download/?id=167914>

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/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (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 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

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

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

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production

Assessment tasks

- Guided recording tasks

- Production Project

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Guided recording tasks
- Production Project
- Exegesis

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create and arrange musical works
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Guided recording tasks
- Production Project

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge,

scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Audio Theory Quiz
- Guided recording tasks
- Production Project
- Exegesis

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create and arrange musical works
- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production
- Research contemporary production practices and technologies

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Audio Theory Quiz
- Production Project
- Exegesis

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Apply advanced music production techniques and digital audio concepts
- Create and arrange musical works
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production

Assessment tasks

- Audio Theory Quiz
- Guided recording tasks
- Production Project

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Explore a range of contextually relevant production and recording practices
- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context

Assessment tasks

- Guided recording tasks
- Exegesis

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social

justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Create and arrange musical works
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production

Assessment tasks

- Production Project
- Exegesis

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Analyse sonic texts in terms of production techniques, composition, and context
- Critique and evaluate the creative process of music production

Assessment tasks

- Participation
- Guided recording tasks
- Production Project
- Exegesis