MECO838
The Art of Recording
S2 Day 2019

Department of Media, Music, Communication and Cultural Studies

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https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/97643/unit_guide/print
**General Information**

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
Professor Julian Knowles
julian.knowles@mq.edu.au
Contact via julian.knowles@mq.edu.au
on request - via email

Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MCrMedia or MCrInd or MFJ or MCreIndMFJ or MMedia or MCreIndMMedia

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](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

**Learning Outcomes**

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

**General Assessment Information**

Late Submissions

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 – e.g. quizzes, online tests. Assignment Grading All assignments of this unit are aligned to the standards outlined in the Macquarie University Assessment Policy (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/assessment). A marking rubric for each of the assignment is available on iLearn. Students are expected to read the rubric before working on the assignment.

Feedback
Feedback will be given to students via the following ways:

Whole class:

- Comments from the unit convenor in the forum discussions and unit activities
- Through the ‘announcement’ function in iLearn, if there are points of relevance to the whole class
- Consolidated feedback on whole of class assignment performance, summarising key strengths and weaknesses (in class and/or via video feedback for technical concepts requiring revision)

Individual

- The ongoing opportunity discuss assignment progress with the convenor via email or face to face student consultation. This provides a mechanism to provide feedback on progress made, prior to submission.

Formal

- Text based comments attached to assignments marked in Turnitin/GradeMark

Marks are made available through the Gradebook function in iLearn

Examples of work

Examples of relevant and related assessment tasks will be made available via seminars

Assessment standards - rubrics

Rubrics for each assignment are made available on the iLearn. Students are encouraged to consult these before commencing an assignment.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recording Analysis</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 4. Friday 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Weighting</td>
<td>Hurdle</td>
<td>Due</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Portfolio Progress</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 8. Friday 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Portfolio</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13. Friday 11pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exegesis</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Week 13. Friday 11pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recording Analysis**

Due: **Week 4. Friday 11pm**  
Weighting: **25%**

Students will select 3 different recordings that display different musical and production aesthetics. Students will then analyse these recordings and write a 750 word report which describes aspects of musical and production style that create a coherent aesthetic and locate the works within genres or music scenes.

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

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

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

**Production Portfolio Progress**

Due: **Week 8. Friday 11pm**  
Weighting: **20%**

This is a progress assessment, with the final portfolio submitted in Week 13. Students will produce a portfolio of 3 short recorded excerpts (around one minute in duration) that use aesthetic concepts from the works examined in their recording analysis (Assessment Task 1).

For this assessment, students will need to submit a progress draft of one of the recorded excerpts. Alongside the recorded draft, students will submit a 500 word report, detailing how the draft responds to the analysed work and the technical process undertaken for completion.

Submission via iLearn and NEXIS file server.

Final stereo mixdowns and reports are to be uploaded to iLearn. ProTools sessions are to be handed in via NEXIS.

Assessment criteria:
• Depth of conceptual and practical engagement with production analysis
• Adherence to technical and audio quality requirements

**Studio Access** Access to the department’s recording facilities for the completion of assessable practical work will be given following a compulsory competency test. This will be offered in Week 3. Access will only be granted once a student has passed this test. If a student does not pass the competency test, they may retake the test until they have demonstrated competence. This competency test carries no marks. It is a health and safety requirement and ensures the student is capable of operating the studio unsupervised.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• 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

**Production Portfolio**

**Due:** *Week 13. Friday 11pm*

**Weighting:** 30%

A final recorded portfolio containing the 3 completed recorded works based on the student’s production research.

Submission via iLearn and NEXIS file server.

Final stereo mixdowns are to be uploaded to iLearn. ProTools sessions are to be handed in via NEXIS.

Assessment criteria:
• Depth of conceptual and practical engagement with production analysis
• Adherence to technical and audio quality requirements

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• Acquire essential production skills to accompany theoretical exploration

**Exegesis**

**Due:** *Week 13. Friday 11pm*

**Weighting:** 25%

Students will submit a 1500 word report which describes their production research and clearly outlines how they have translated that research into practice to inform their approach to producing the recordings. This report should include critical analyses of the 3 case studies used as models, a description of the recording process undertaken (with technical details), and a
reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the final result.

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

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• 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
• Develop recording strategies to explore relationships between sound and society

Delivery and Resources

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. Classes are not optional. They deliver important content and are a central component of meeting the learning outcomes in this unit. Classes provide students with the essential production skills required to successfully complete assignments. Academic and/or technical staff cannot deliver technical instruction to students that is already covered in the timetabled classes. This is why attendance is essential. Students who elect to not attend classes will miss out on unit content and technical demonstrations risk failing the unit. Students who miss classes due to illness should speak with the convenor as soon as possible to discuss how to catch up on the missed content. Attendance will be recorded.

Commencement of teaching

Seminars will commence in Week 1. No advance reading or preparation is required.

Recommended Unit Readings (digital access via MultiSearch)


Berger, Harris M., and Cornelia Fales. “‘Heaviness’ in the Perception of Heavy Metal Guitar


Thompson, Emily. "Machines, Music, and the Quest for Fidelity: Marketing the Edison

**Unit Schedule**

See iLearn

**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). 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). 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).

**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 published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Additional information**

MMCCS website https://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/department_of_media_music_communication_and_cultural_studies/
Updated 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
• Production Portfolio Progress
• Production 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
• Recording Analysis
• Production Portfolio Progress
• Production 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

• Recording Analysis
• Production Portfolio Progress
• Production 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

• Recording Analysis
• Production Portfolio Progress
• Production 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

• Recording Analysis
• Production Portfolio Progress
• Exegesis
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:

**Assessment task**

- Production Portfolio

**Changes since First Published**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05/07/2019</td>
<td>Inclusion of attendance, standards, commencement, examples and feedback</td>
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