

A350 Syllabus

Spring 2004

Instructor: Konrad Strauss
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Class Time: Mon. 7 – 8:30 pm

Office phone: 855-1900
Office Hours: T, R, 2:45 pm – 3:30 pm

The focus of this class will be critical listening, discussion and peer review. The audio industry is constantly changing. New technologies, equipment, and techniques mean that as engineers must never stop learning. We must also be aware that audio production is an inherently artistic activity, we are required to make aesthetic decisions as a regular part of our activities. In this class we will use these two issues as a springboard for discussion, integrating them as we discuss musical trends and technical innovations within the context of audio production. Secondly, Listening is probably the most important activity an engineer does. It allows us to analyze contemporary production techniques, and stay abreast of present musical trends. This is a chance for students to play music that they like and discuss topics of interest.

Listening: Please bring CDs to class and be prepared to play and discuss them. All musical styles are welcome.

Peer Review: Learning how to offer, and accept criticism is a necessary skill. Students are expected to bring projects they have recorded to class and offer them for peer review.

Discussion: All students are expected to participate in class discussions. There are no restrictions on topics, except that they must relate in some way to audio production.

Guests: Occasionally we will have guest lecturers from the audio production industry.

Field Trips: I will arrange occasional field trips to local production facilities. Some of these trips may take place outside of regular class hours.

Grading:

Grading is based on attendance and class participation. **Attendance:** one unexcused absence is allowed. A penalty of 1/2 letter grade per class will be assessed for any further unexcused absences. Please come to class on time. Two tardies will count as an unexcused absence. If you are tardy, it is your responsibility to make sure I have not marked you absent. **Class participation:** I will apply a maximum one-letter grade penalty if a student does not participate in class discussions.