

**Tompkins Cortland Community College**  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: COMM 135**

**Year: 2024-2025**

**Course Title: Recording Technology I**

**Credit Hours: 3**

**I. Course Description:** This course covers the basics in recording technology using industry standard hardware and software with digital audio workstations. Students will use microphones, outboard processors, and basic concepts in music theory, including studio set-up, microphone technique, and principles of analog and digital audio mixing to produce audio programs. This course is designed for students pursuing a career in audio design and production. Prerequisites: Prior completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, ENGL 100 if required by placement. 3 Cr. (2 Lec., 2 Lab) Fall semester.

**II. Additional Course Information:**

1. This course is designed for students in the Broadcast Production: Radio program. However, it may be of interest for anyone who would like to know more about multi-track audio recording.
2. This should be taken in the first semester for students in the Broadcast Production: Radio program, as they will need to take COMM 235 in their second semester. This class is only offered in the fall. COMM 235 is only offered in the spring.
3. Students must be adept in the use of Windows PC file management and downloading and uploading files from devices and the web.
4. This course consists of at least 200 minutes of class time each week for the fifteen-week semester. Substantial outside preparation is required.
5. Over-the-ear headphones (not earbuds) & ¼ inch headphone adapter, and 2GB + USB flash drive or external hard drive required.

**III. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate and produce a professional multi-track session audio program using multi-track sound production and recording, file management, post-production, and finishing techniques on both broadcast-quality hardware and software.
2. Justify aesthetic choices made on, and evaluate the overall creative success of, a media-based production project.
3. Use critical-thinking and other problem-solving skills to evaluate and enhance audio productions.

**IV. Tompkins Cortland General Education Goals & SUNY Competencies**

☒ **Critical thinking**

Media projects often address social issues, and/or can cause social unrest. Students will discuss the role music and podcasts have in society. They will be expected to participate in critical analysis discussions in the course room.

☒ **Social/Global Awareness**

Students are encouraged to show the diversity represented in the college community and the surrounding area in their work. They are also encouraged to explore personal growth and re-think stereotyping through video and audio presentations produced around the world.

## ☒ Information Management

Students will be working with computers using basic and more advanced research to locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

## V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. Introduction to the Recording Studio
2. Sound & Hearing: Studio Acoustics & Design, Microphone: Design & Application
3. Applications: Recording Technologies, Analog & Digital
4. Multimedia & the Web: Cell Phones, Computers, Home Theater, Apps, the Cloud, the Web, Physical Media, Delivery Formats, Digital Audio, Uncompressed Sound Files, Compressed Codecs, MIDI
5. Field: Pre-production Preparation, Acoustics in the Field, Recording Music Outside the Studio, Stereo Recording Methods, Mic Techniques for the Field, Location Recording for the Screen, Capturing Sound Effects
6. Amplifiers, Power & Ground-related Issues: Multiphase and Balanced Power
7. The Art & Technology of Mixing: Groove Tools, Overdubbing, Mixdown, the "Mixing Surface", DAW mixer/controller Technology, Signal Processing, Dynamic Range, Time-based Effects, Noise Reduction, Monitors, Surround Sound, Mastering, Product Manufacturing
8. Audio Production & the Web

## VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Class project	65%
2. Quizzes, tests & assignments	10%
3. Final exam	10%
4. Attendance & participation	10%
5. Labs	5%

## VII. Texts – Required: none

### Recommended:

McCormick, Francis, Rumsey, Tim and Megan Turner. *Sound and Recording: Applications and Theory*. N.p.: Focal, 2014.

*Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.*

## VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Hausman, Carl, O'Donnell, Lewis and Philip Benoit. <i>Modern Radio Production</i> . 10th Edition, Boston, Cengage. © 2016
2. Keith, Michael, C. <i>The Radio Station: Broadcast, Satellites, and Internet</i> , Burlington, Elsevier. © 2010
3. Lubin, Tom. <i>Getting Great Sounds: The Microphone Book</i> . Boston, Cengage. © 2010.
4. McDaniel, Drew O., Shriver, Rick C. and Kenneth R. Collins. <i>Fundamentals of Audio Production</i> , Boston, Allyn & Bacon. © 2008
5. Owens, Jim. <i>Digital Production Handbook</i> , 6 <sup>th</sup> edition, United Kingdom, Taylor & Francis. © 2017
6. Rayburn, Ray A., and John Eargle. <i>Eargle's Microphone Book: From Mono to Stereo to Surround: A Guide to Microphone Design and Application</i> . Amsterdam: Elsevier. © 2012

7. Schenk, Sonja and Ben Long, *The Digital Filmmaking Handbook*, 6th edition. Los Angeles, Foreign Films. © 2017
8. Shepherd, Ashley. *Pro Tools: For Video, Film, and Multimedia*. Boston, Muska & Lipman. © 2008

*Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.*

## IX. Other Learning Resources

### Audiovisual

Sound effects library provided by Broadcast Production program

### Electronic

None specified

### Other

None specified

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

**Academic Integrity:** *Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of his or her academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms. Any written work submitted by a student must be his or her own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, he or she must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.*

*Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.*