Module Code:	CMT427

Module Title:	Introduction to Audio

Level:	4	Credit Value:	20

Cost Centre(s):	GACT	JACS3 code: HECoS code:	J930 100222

Faculty:	Arts, Science and Technology	Module Leader:	Colin Heron

Scheduled learning and teaching hours	48 hrs
Guided independent study	152 hrs
Placement	0 hrs
Module duration (total hours)	200 hrs

Programme(s) in which to be offered (not including exit awards)	Core	Option
BA (Hons) Sound Design	☑	☐

Pre-requisites

Module Aims
The content of this module is the foundation of recording principles as applied to the modern multi-track recording environment. The theory concentrates on the basic signal-chain and acts as an introduction to the technology located within the studio. It develops the student's appreciation of the key elements that are required in a high-quality audio process and furnishes them with the required skills to play an active part in a studio production team. The aim of this module is to develop an understanding of the factors that define quality in production and recording practice, requiring technical competence within the modern recording and production environment and involving an appreciation of the discrete roles within a production team and the ability to work in a team-orientated situation; also, to develop an awareness of the strengths and limitations of technology in the context of musical and audio performance.

Intended Learning Outcomes
Key skills for employability

KS1   Written, oral and media communication skills
KS2   Leadership, team working and networking skills
KS3   Opportunity, creativity and problem solving skills
KS4   Information technology skills and digital literacy
KS5   Information management skills
KS6   Research skills
KS7   Intercultural and sustainability skills
KS8   Career management skills
KS9   Learning to learn (managing personal and professional development, self-management)
KS10   Numeracy

At the end of this module, students will be able to		Key Skills	
1	Implement gain structure and levels as applied to analogue and digital processing and recording equipment.	KS9	KS10
2	Evaluate different approaches to recording sound sources and apply techniques and equipment that are appropriate to each circumstance.	KS1	KS2
		KS3	KS4
3	Appraise various approaches to analogue and digital sound processing to correct or enhance musical performances.	KS2	KS5
		KS6	
4	Evaluate the procedures and techniques for producing and engineering music to a professional and creative standard.	KS6	KS9
5	Produce examples of audio to a professional standard.	KS3	KS4
		KS9	KS10

Transferable skills and other attributes

- Develop an understanding of the recording industry;
- Appreciation of the constraints imposed upon technique through the limitations of technology;
- Attain communication skills and vocabulary for dealing with professionals within the audio industry;

Derogations

None

Assessment:.

Indicative Assessment Tasks:

The student will produce an electronic portfolio in the form of a blog that is posted on a weekly basis. The blog will demonstrate the knowledge attained in lectures and apply the knowledge to practical recording tasks to create artefacts supporting the dialogue of the posts. A small practical operational test (simulation) will form part of the assessment criteria in order to demonstrate safe working practice in the studio.

Assessment number	Learning Outcomes to be met	Type of assessment	Weighting (%)	Duration (if exam)	Word count (or equivalent if appropriate)
1	2, 3, 4	Portfolio	90		10 Blog Entries
2	1, 5	Simulation	10		Practical operational test

Learning and Teaching Strategies:

The module will be presented as a series of lectures linked to practical sessions with the associated equipment within the recording studio. The student will receive on-going feedback in the form of personal tutorials in order to maximise the learning potential of the coursework.

Group collaboration will be encouraged to emphasise the importance of teamwork within the recording process.

Syllabus outline:

- The Auditory System and response to sound exposure and suitable protection.
- Health and safety in the recording studio
- The principles and terminology of sound
- Gain structure and signal paths
- Interconnection standards
- Mixing desk topology

- Microphones and input devices
- Monitoring and playback devices
- Digital Audio Workstation environment
- Dynamics based effects
- Time based effects
- Mastering

Indicative Bibliography:
Essential reading
Ferreira, C.L. (2013). Music Production: Recording: A guide for producers, engineers and musicians. Focal Press Rumsey, F. McCorrmick, T. (2014). Sound and Recording Applications and Theory. Focal Press
Other indicative reading
Audio Engineering Society – Journal and e-Library http://www.aes.org Bartlett, R. (2012). Practical Recording Techniques. Focal Press Self,D. (2009). Audio Engineering Explained- for professional audio recording (Paperback) Focal Press Sound on Sound – Periodical / Website http://www.soundonsound.com/

Ferreira, C.L. (2013). Music Production: Recording: A guide for producers, engineers and musicians. Focal Press
Rumsey, F. McCorrmick, T. (2014). Sound and Recording Applications and Theory. Focal Press

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Bartlett, R. (2012). Practical Recording Techniques. Focal Press
Self,D. (2009). Audio Engineering Explained- for professional audio recording (Paperback) Focal Press
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