

**Nashville State Community College**  
**English, Humanities, & Creative Technologies**  
**Music Technology**

**Spring 2023 Master Course Syllabus - 2nd 7-week Term**

**MST-1420 Mastering**

The purpose of the syllabus is to tell you how the course is organized, what the expectations are, and how you will be graded. In addition, there is important information about how the college will operate during severe weather and how the college will communicate with you. The syllabus is not a contract. Instead, it is meant to help you succeed in this course. If any of the content changes during the semester, you will be notified.

**Course information:**

**Course Title:** MST-1400 The Art of Mixing

**Credits:** 3

**Class Hours:** 2 Class Hours, 2 Lab Hours

**Course Description:**

A practical course in live sound production. Topics include electrical safety procedures, signal flow, loudspeakers, live console operation, front-of house and stage monitoring practices, critical listening, live event procedures, troubleshooting, sound crew roles and duties, and system maintenance. Students will provide live sound support for select events.

**Prerequisite(s):** Instructor Approval Required. Not part of a Tennessee Transfer Pathway

**Instructor Information:**

**Name:** Eric Richardso

**Office Phone:**

**Office Location:**

**Office Hours:**

**Instructor Zoom Room link:**

**Class Session Zoom Link Information (if virtual):**

**Required Textbook(s) & Other Materials:**

**Textbook(s):** Mastering Audio, 3rd Edition, Focal Press, (Bob Katz)

**ISBN:** 978-0240818962

**Access Code:** To be determined by the instructor.

**Reference Materials:** Internet access outside of normal class hours may be required to complete some homework assignments and quiz activities. Students that do not have Internet access may need to schedule time in the college computer labs. Students will have access to digital copies of reference guides in the content section of the course shell or at manufacturer websites.

**Supplies:** 8GB or larger USB Flash Drive, 1-2" binder, colored pencils, highlighters or markers.

Once you have registered for your courses, you should make sure you have the correct textbook and materials for each course. Before courses begin, you can do this by looking up your courses on the bookstore's website ( <https://www.bkstr.com/nscctestore/shop/textbooks-and-course-materials> ) using your A# or by entering your course information. If you are registered with the Access Center and need an alternate format for the textbook and other course materials, please contact the Access Center at 615-353-3721, 615-353-3741, or [accesscenter@nscctest.edu](mailto:accesscenter@nscctest.edu)

**Digital Course Materials:** These ensure you pay less for your course materials and have easy access through D2L throughout the semester. When you registered for this course, the charge for these materials appeared on your account. If you decide you do not want to purchase the course materials embedded in NS Online, you can opt out of the program **until the end of the second week of classes**. If you opt out, you will be responsible for purchasing the required course materials on your own. For more information, please visit [www.nscctest.edu/dcm](http://www.nscctest.edu/dcm).

**Honors Option:** Honors credit is available in some classes. If you are interested in participating in the Honors Program, please see your instructor within the first four weeks of class.

**Course Outcomes:**

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

1. Master a complete album by applying the use of computer based audio applications.
2. Make valid listening comparisons.
3. Describe the path of a commercial recording, from mastering studio to listener.
4. Demonstrate basic signal processing techniques as they relate to mastering.
5. Prepare CDs and computer files using audio production software.
6. Research and identify appropriate mastering goals.

**Course Competencies:**

The following are detailed course competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Visually identify audio file types by their file extensions and icons.
2. Visually identify software digital signal processors and their status.
3. Describe each step of the mastering process in detail.
4. Select the best available audio processing option if necessary when presented with an un-mastered mix.
5. Demonstrate proper gain structure during the mastering process.
6. Interpret audio measurement readings and make appropriate adjustments based on those readings.
7. Arrange software digital signal processors in an appropriate order during the mastering process.
8. Communicate the differences and/or similarities of analog and digital mastering tools.
9. Configure digital audio software for a number of real world mastering situations.
10. Demonstrate the effective use of pre-and post-fader sends during the mastering process.
11. Create cross-platform compatible software-based mastering sessions.
12. Demonstrate the effective use of file-based fade-ins, fade-outs, and crossfades during the mastering process.
13. Demonstrate the effective use of software-based mix automation capabilities during the mastering process.
14. Publish mastered mixes in industry standard file formats.
15. Select appropriate signal flow choices during the mastering process.
16. Configure a mastering session for proper A/B comparisons.
17. Describe dither and its use in the mastering process.
18. Select software digital signal processors that are compatible with specific digital audio software applications.
19. Demonstrate the effective use of real-time and file-based audio software plug-ins during the mastering process.
20. Meet deadlines and deliver projects in the required formats.
21. Demonstrate best practice file management and archival procedures.
22. Configure audio hardware for a given mastering session.
23. Generate audio CDs using a computer and disc burning software.
24. Make appropriate decisions when sequencing a mastering project.
25. Setup an appropriate listening environment, including selecting proper playback levels.
26. Describe in detail, jitter and its effects.
27. Explain in detail, the importance of checking mixes for mono/stereo compatibility.

The following are general education competencies intended to support the course outcomes:

1. Locate, evaluate, and use multiple sources of information to identify current mastering trends.
2. Use critical thinking skills to analyze and evaluate final mixes and select appropriate mastering processes.
3. Use and adapt software and hardware technologies to produce mastered products to industry standards.
4. Use scientific thought processes to determine the influence of physical environments on aural perception.

**Topics to Be Covered:**

1. The Anatomy of a Great Mix
2. Mastering Sub-par Mixes
3. Control Room Acoustics
4. Archival Practices and Issues
5. Analog vs. Digital Mastering
6. Software Mastering Templates
7. The Importance of Documentation
8. Final Product Delivery Options
9. Dynamic Processing
10. Equalization Processing
11. Signal Routing in the Mastering Studio
12. Studio Monitors
13. Codecs
14. Using Automation
15. Disc Manufacturing
16. Competitive Issues
17. Assembly and Disc Burning

**Course Assessments:** We will use the following assessments to demonstrate your understanding, knowledge, and skills:

Labs, projects, quizzes, exams, video certificates, and worksheets will be used to assess your mastery of this course. For a detailed breakdown see the online grade book in the NS Online course shell for this course.

**Grading Policy:**

Final grades are based on class participation, worksheets, assignments, labs, projects, quizzes, & exams. These activities will be used to determine mastery of skills and concepts.

**Grading Scale:**

Letter Grade	Percentage Range
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

**Final grades are calculated using a 1000-point system**

Final Letter Grade	Final Grade Point Range
A	900-1000
B	800-899
C	700-799
D	600-699
F	0-599

**FA**

If you stop attending class or if you are in an online class and stop submitting assignments, but do not turn in a withdrawal form by the deadline, you are still enrolled in class. You will be given a grade of FA, which means you have failed due to not attending class and not completing your assignments. Please refer to the current academic calendar available on the Nashville State web site, looking for the date that indicates it is the “Last Day to Earn F for Attendance (FA).” If you stop attending your course after this date, you will receive an F.

Last date to earn an F for attendance is April 14, 2023

**FN**

An FN is awarded if you have never attended your course or done any of the work in an online course.

**Late Work Policy & Make-up Procedures for Missed Assignments and Work:**

Students should contact the instructor regarding opportunities to make-up missed assignments, labs, quizzes, and exams.

**Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to complete assigned coursework prior to deadlines. To do so, students should fully participate in each class meeting. If a student needs to be absent from a class, please contact the instructor to arrange virtual participation or a plan to make-up missed work.

## General Policy

If you have been exposed to COVID-19 or have tested positive, you must email [virusinfo@nsc.edu](mailto:virusinfo@nsc.edu).

- *Absences in a course may affect your final grade.*
- *Tardiness may also affect your final grade.*
- *You are responsible for all work/tests that occur during any missed course session(s) regardless of reason(s) for absence.*
- *If you are not well enough to attend a course session (class), you must notify the instructor as soon as possible before the scheduled course time.*
  - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*
- *If you have an unavoidable conflict with a scheduled course session, you must notify the instructor before the course session.*
  - *If you are unable to notify an instructor before the scheduled course time, you must contact the instructor as soon as reasonably possible.*

## Instructor's Policy

The attendance policy for this course is: Student are expected to complete assigned coursework prior to deadlines. To do so, students should fully participate in each class meeting. If a student needs to be absent from a class, please contact the instructor to arrange virtual participation or a plan to make-up missed work.

**For financial aid** purposes, **attendance** is measured by participation in the course. Instructors can determine your level of participation in several ways. Some of those ways are:

- continued attendance
- participation in on-ground or virtual class sessions
- participating in D2L as prompted
- responding to an instructor's email
- posting to a discussion board
- completing and submitting assignments

## Technology Statement

- All classes at the College are web enhanced. "Web enhanced" means that components of the course, such as assignments and online discussions, may be located online in the class D2L/NS Online course shell and used in the course, even if the course meets in a classroom on ground.
- You must have access to a computer and an internet connection to complete assignments, engage in online discussions, and access various course materials through D2L/NS Online course shells.
- You may also be required to use free video conferencing platforms (examples: Zoom, Teams, etc.) for course sessions and meetings.

- You will be responsible for appropriate dress while on video. This means that you are expected to dress as if you were in a classroom.
- You will be responsible for a distraction free environment while on video. This means that the professor and others in the course should not be able to hear noise in your home, such as cell phones, TVs, or barking dogs. The best way to do this is to keep yourself on “mute” until you need to speak.
- You will be responsible for making sure your background is neutral. Keep in mind that students and professors come from all around the world, and you are all a part of our community. Therefore, please avoid having images in your background that may be offensive to your classmates.
- Certain publisher materials, such as textbook figures, may not work on cellphones and may require a laptop or a tablet.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding access to a computer or internet resources, please contact your instructor. Additional information is available on this website: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources/access-to-internet-and-technology>.

### **Computer Labs**

Computers are available for all Nashville State students to use at each campus during open hours. Open computer lab availability may vary from campus to campus. You should check the NSCC website for current hours of operation.

### **D2L/NS Online and myNSCC**

It is your responsibility to check your email in **both** D2L/NS Online course shells and your @my.nsc.edu (student email) on a regular basis. These are the official communication channels between the college and you. You are responsible for the information communicated through these email channels. D2L/NS Online emails contain specific course information and @my.nsc.edu emails contain important information from college offices, such as Financial Aid.

### **ADA Compliance Statement**

If you need accommodations due to a disability, please do not hesitate to reach out to our Access Center. Disabilities for which you can receive accommodations include documented physical, emotional, and/or learning conditions. Nashville State is committed to supporting your success, and we encourage you to get assistance if needed. If you require accommodations for any courses in which you are enrolled, contact the Access Center at 615.353.3741 or 615.353.3721, or e-mail [accesscenter@nsc.edu](mailto:accesscenter@nsc.edu).

### **Classroom Misconduct**

Disruptive conduct is not allowed in the classroom. Disruptive conduct is any behavior that prevents students from learning and interferes with the ability of the instructor to teach. This may change from course to course; therefore, your individual instructors will give you guidance on what qualifies as “disruptive conduct” in their courses. Please review the [Nashville State](#)

[Student Code of Conduct policy](#). Please be aware that children are not allowed in class or to be left unattended on campus.

### **Academic Misconduct**

You have started this academic journey to prepare for a future career. Because of this, it is important that you learn the materials being presented in your courses. For this reason, cheating, in any form, robs you of your opportunity to learn and master the material that will enable you to succeed in that future career. Nashville State has a clear [Academic Misconduct Policy](#) that you are expected to follow. In addition, your instructors will clarify what Academic Misconduct looks like and the consequences for violations in each course that you take. The instructor has the authority to assign an “F” or a “zero” for such violations or for the semester grade.

The 1<sup>st</sup> instance of academic misconduct in this course will result in a F or a zero for the activity  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> instance of academic misconduct will result in a F for the semester.

### **Academic Early Alert System**

If you are not doing well in your course, your instructor may send you an Early Alert through your @my.nsc.edu email. This email will go to your academic advisor and Student Success advisor, as well. If you get an Early Alert, contact your instructor immediately. Instructors send these when they want to help you figure out how to get extra support to pass the course. An Early Alert does not mean that you have already failed the course. Rather, it means you are in danger of failing the course if you do not change your learning strategy. Please use an Early Alert to your advantage and as an opportunity to improve your grade.

### **RAVE Emergency Alert System**

You can log in to this free alert system to receive text messages about emergencies related to NSCC campuses: <https://www.getrave.com/login/nsc>. The instructions for this are listed below.

- Your RAVE Username is your NSCC email address.
- If you've never received an email from RAVE with your password, or if you need to reset your password, select “Forgot your password?” and a new password will be emailed to you.
- Should the RAVE system indicate “user not found”, select Register and create your own RAVE account.

### **Student Wellness**

Your well-being is important to us. With this in mind, the college has several resources available to provide support when needed:

- Free tutoring: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/learning-center-and-tutoring>
- NSCC email, scheduling, online courses, textbooks, tech check out and support, computer labs on campuses, academic advising, financial advising, COVID-19

information and procedures on campuses: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/student-online-resources>

- Services that help with bus passes, food, childcare, textbooks, housing, financial counseling, personal counseling, suicide prevention, health insurance: <https://www.nsc.edu/current-students/on-campus-resources/student-support-services>

### **Equity Statement**

We are taking steps to become more aware of the many different needs of students. Faculty, staff and administrators are committed to helping students find ways to meet their needs so that ALL students can reach their goals. Please ask for things you need.

### **Inclement Weather & Campus Closings**

You get notices about campus closings in these places: text messages from RAVE and [www.nsc.edu](http://www.nsc.edu).

Even when campuses are closed, you are still responsible for completing all assigned work. Check D2L/NS Online for a message from your instructor so you do not miss important assignments and due dates, which may change due to the campus closure.

### **Class Cancellation Policy**

Our instructors post messages about cancelling classes in the D2L/NSOnline course shells and/or on the classroom door on campus. These messages can be found in the News and Content section or the Email tab in the online shell. Please check these to be sure that you take advantage of opportunities for learning and points toward your grade.