

# Syllabus

## Music Recording and Mixing

### Fall Semester 2026

Jeffrey Albert, Ph.D.

April 2, 2026

- **Course**
  - MUSI 6103 — Music Recording and Mixing
  - MUSI 4630 — Music Recording and Mixing
- **Instructor:**
  - Jeffrey Albert, Ph.D.
  - Email: [jeff.albert@gatech.edu](mailto:jeff.albert@gatech.edu)
  - Phone and text: 404 480 2633
  - Office: Couch 209G
  - Office hours: by appointment via <http://bit.ly/4jdDQrb>
- **Class Meetings:**
  - Monday and Wednesday: 3:30 - 4:45 pm in Recording Studio (Couch B04)

## 1 Course Description

Overview of concepts, techniques, hardware, and software used in audio production, as well as aesthetic concerns and considerations.

### 1.1 Prerequisites

There are no pre-requisites for this course. Basic knowledge of digital audio concepts and familiarity with Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) software is helpful.

### 1.2 Learning Outcomes

The objective of this course is for students to become familiar and comfortable with the processes involved in recording, managing, and manipulating digital audio. The successful student will:

- Create a digital audio workstation (DAW) session;
- Identify audio effects, classify them into domains, and exhibit their effective usage;
- Create effects inserts and send/return paths in a DAW;
- Analyze and diagram elements of a mix;
- Plan ways to improve a mix;
- Criticize a mix and identify its strengths and weaknesses; Record acoustic instruments and vocals;
- Create stereo recordings using stereo recording techniques; Produce high quality mixes;
- Create finished audio products in consumer deliverable forms.

## 2 Course Requirements Grading

The assignments for this course will include: written listening reports in which you will describe commercially released mixes using a provided rubric, quizzes on readings and in class assignments, mixes of provided multitrack recordings, recording projects in which you will record sounds, and a final project that will be recorded and mixed by you.

### 2.1 Assignment Weights

Grading for this course is weighted as follows:

- **Listening Reports:** 25%
- **Mixes:** 25%
- **Recording Assignments:** 25%
- **Final Project:** 25%

### 2.2 Grading Scale

The final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

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

## 3 Course Materials

### 3.1 Text

We will use a variety of readings and texts. Each will be posted on Canvas using the Reading Lists feature or as individual pdfs.

### 3.2 Additional Materials/Resources

We will use the 'Mixing Secrets' Free Multitrack Download Library (<https://cambridge-mt.com/ms/mtk/>) extensively. Other online sources will be posted on Canvas.

### 3.3 Headphones

Studio headphones are highly recommended. High quality overear headphones are suggested. Earbuds, Noise canceling, and inexpensive consumer headphones are discouraged. You must use wired headphones for production work. **DO NOT USE BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES FOR AUDIO PRODUCTION WORK!!!**

### 3.4 Software

I will teach recording processes in Pro Tools. For the mix assignments you may use Reaper, Pro Tools, Logic, Ableton Live, or Studio One as you see fit. We will discuss some rationale behind these choices in class.

### 3.5 Hard Drive

A portable hard drive or SSD is required for this course. All work on studio computers **MUST** be saved to your portable hard drive.

## 4 Policy Statements

### 4.1 Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

### 4.2 Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

### 4.3 Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance to class meetings is expected and recorded. The listening and readings that are assigned to be done outside of the classroom are designed to inform and support the classroom lectures, discussions, and exercises which are the main form of information delivery. Attendance and participation may factor into course grading, but their main impact is on learning. We can each learn from each other, but we must be present to do so. Please also see <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/> for more information about institute expectations and restrictions around attendance, including information about excused absences.

### 4.4 Collaboration Group Work

Music is often a communal or social experience, and I encourage you to listen to and discuss the music in this course with your friends and colleagues. The written work that you submit for grades in this course should be your own. When you are presenting ideas that originated with others you must cite your sources, and you must cite any use of generative writing tools. There may be group recording projects.

### 4.5 Extensions, Late Assignments, Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

All assignments will remain available on Canvas for one week after the due date. Work will be accepted after the due date with a 10% daily deduction from the earned grade. Once the assignment is no longer available on Canvas; no attempts will be accepted.

If you must miss class or due dates for Institute related activities, religious observances, or due to documented accommodations please make sure to communicate with me BEFORE the due date, so we can make appropriate arrangements.

### 4.6 Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

## **4.7 Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom**

Please consider how your use of mobile computing technology in class will affect your own learning and the learning environment of those around you. Limit your use of phones/tablets/laptops during class to class related activities.

## **4.8 Modified Operations Policies**

With developments and improvements to digital instruction over the past few years, the Institute has developed policies to leverage digital learning as much as reasonably possible. The policy sets forth requirements, procedures, and responsibilities related to the scheduling of digital instruction and/or make-up classes due to the modification of campus operations, closing of campus, or the necessary closing of instructional spaces for any reason. Students should await communications from their instructors regarding delivery of their classes during that period based upon the Digital Learning Days for Modified Campus Operations Policy. Students should follow guidance and/or directions provided by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being regarding student activities, events, programs and services.

# **5 Campus Resources for Students**

Georgia Tech has several resources to help you be healthy and successful. Academic Success Advising (<https://www.success.gatech.edu/>) is your starting point for tutoring and academic support. Mental health services are also available at the Center for Mental Health Care Resources (<https://mentalhealth.gatech.edu/>). Please reach out if you need help.