

Module Specification

Module Title: Production Analysis

Module code:	TBC	NQF level:	Level 4
Credit value:	20 credits	Semester of study:	1 and 2
Applicable pathways:	Foundation Degree – Music Production	Pre-requisites:	None

Module overview

This module addresses a variety of issues relating to the recording of audio and the production of music and offers opportunities for students to explore a range of technical, scientific and production processes that go into the creation of recorded music. Students will also become aware and examine the challenges encountered whilst applying theoretical principles to recorded music. Guest speakers will provide insight into the relationship between theory and practice when producing music.

Below are possible areas of study in which students can apply knowledge to recorded music:

- Digital audio theory
- Psychoacoustics
- Digital and Analogue Dynamic Processors and FX
- Signal Routing
- Patch Bays
- Inserts and Auxiliaries
- Digital and Analogue Mixing Desk Architecture
- Analogue v Digital Mixing Considerations
- Working with Musicians and Interpretation of Artistic Intent
- Delivering a Commercial Product

Aims

This module is theory driven and is designed to provide underpinning knowledge and theoretical principles of audio recording and music production to support students' practical work in the recording studios and computer suites. The module will introduce a range of audio recording and production topics in the context of seminal recordings in order for students to understand their historical and technological relationships. Visits from industry professionals will contribute to the contextualisation and the theoretical content in a contemporary production framework.

The module aims to:

1. Give students an understanding of key principles and theories of audio recording and production through the analysis of seminal recordings.
2. Provide students with an insight into the practicalities and realities of music production for the current market.
3. Provide students with the skills to effectively analyse historic and contemporary sound recordings.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of a range of techniques and production processes in the context of both historical and contemporary recordings.
2. Apply a holistic understanding of technology, technique and production through production analysis.
3. Analyse a wide range of production values used within historical and contemporary sound recordings.
4. Apply an understanding of commercial product delivery.

Learning and teaching methods

Concepts, principles and theories will be explored in formal **lectures** and small group **seminars**.

Lecture. The lecture series covers a range of topics that are relevant to the production of a variety of styles of music across a range of genres. Underlying scientific and theoretical principles will be covered as well as the analysis of key works and real world issues and scenarios related to music production.

Seminar. Students will explore and build on the content delivered in the lectures by using work sheets and analysing a variety of audio material. Students will study a wide range of recording and production techniques employed within the creative industries.

Contact hours and directed study (over semesters 1 and 2)

Delivery type	Student hours
Indicative hours for learning and teaching activities	40 hours
Indicative hours of directed study	160 hours
Total hours (100hrs per 10 credits)	200 hours

Opportunities for formative feedback

Regular formative assessment through seminars.

Assessment method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Online Technical Assessment (Quiz)	30 minutes	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
Group Presentation on Contemporary or Historical Works	15 minutes per group	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
Portfolio - Production Analysis of Album/Works (eportfolio)	2000 words plus media examples	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

Re-Assessment method

Description of assessment	Length/Duration	Weighting	Module LOs addressed
Online Technical Assessment (Quiz)	30 minutes	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
Portfolio - analysis of Contemporary or Historical Works	1500 words	30%	1, 2, 3, 4
Portfolio - Production Analysis of Album/Works (eportfolio)	2000 words plus media examples	40%	1, 2, 3, 4

Indicative Reading List

- Krippaehne, D. (2016) Demystifying the Genre: Analysis of commonly used elements in ten of the top production musical styles and strategies for successfully writing and recording in any genre. Create Space Independent Publishing Platform; 1 edition.
- Moorfield, V. (2010) The Producer as Composer – Shaping the Sound of Popular Music. MIT Press, 1 Edition.
- Milner, G. (2010) Perfecting Sound Forever: The Story of Recorded Music. Granta Books.
- Massey, H. (2000) Behind the Glass: Top Producers Tell How The Craft the Hits. Backbeat Books.
- Martin, G. (2016) All You Need Is Ears. St Martin's Griffin.
- Rumsey and McCormick. (2005) Sound and Recording, An Introduction, Focal Press.

- Ballou G. (2015) Handbook for Sound Engineers (Audio Engineering Society Presents). Focal Press.