Course Description
This course will trace the development of sound recording technology from its beginning with inventions such as the phonoautograph (1866) throughout history and up to modern digital sound recording technology such as .wav and MP3 formats. Students will be given hands-on experience with various historically important sound recording devices such as the Edison cylinder phonograph, the 78rpm phonodisc, the magnetic tape recorder, and the modern digital sound recorder. Our goal is to give students a detailed understanding of sound recording technology as it developed over the past century with first-hand experience in using these historically important devices and the significant effects of these devices upon culture and society.

Required Readings:
Each week students will be assigned readings, provided by the instructor, pertaining to our planned in-class discussions, demonstrations, and projects. Students will be given one week to read these. We will discuss the readings and student's questions at the start of each class. You will be quizzed on the materials found in the readings.

Suggested Text:
Sound Recording: The Life Story of a Technology by David L. Morton JR.
ISBN: 0-8018-8398-9

Quizzes: The course is sectioned into 4 parts. Each part will end with a review quiz. Quizzes are worth 5 points each.

Projects: Each student will be required to complete four projects in class.

Attendance: This course requires students’ attendance, as we will be learning via in-class discussion and hands-on experience. Therefore, unexcused absences will detract 5 points each from final grades. Perfect attendance is worth 10 bonus points.

Final Exam: Monday, May 11th, 2:45pm to 4:45pm
The final exam (comprehensive) is worth 20 points.

Grading:
Quizzes: Four in total 20 points (5 points each)
Project One: Edison Cylinder Recording 15 points
Project Two: Lacquer Disc Recording 15 points
Project Three: Magnetic Tape Recording 15 points
Final Project: Digital Recording 15 points
Final Exam: Comprehensive 20 points
Tentative Class Schedule (subject to change)

Part One:  **Acoustic Analog Recording/ Wax Cyliners**

**January 26**: Course Intro/ Pre-Edision Experiments and Inventions
**February 2nd**: Edision's Phonograph/ in-class demo /Project 1
**February 9th**: Cylinder Recording Sessions
**February 16th**: Quiz on Part One Topics / In Class Critique

Part Two:  **Electrical Recording/ Lacquer Discs**

**February 23rd**: Phono Disc & Microphone Intro/ Project 2
**March 2nd**: Phono Disc Recording Sessions
**March 9th**:  **SPRING BREAK**
**March 16th**: Phono Disc Recording Sessions
**March 23rd**: Quiz on Part Two Topics / In Class Critique

Part Three:  **Magnetic Recording/ Analog Tape**

**March 30th**: Magnetic Tape Intro/ Recording Demo / Project 3
**April 6th**: Magnetic Tape Recording Sessions
**April 13th**: Quiz on Part Three Topics / In Class Critique

Part Four:  **Digital Recording/ WAV & MP3**

**April 20th**: Introduction to digital recording/ Final Project
**April 27th**: Digital Recording Sessions
**May 4th**: Quiz on Part Four Topics/ Final Review
**FINAL EXAM**: Monday, May 11th, 2:45pm to 4:45pm