

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: CRITICAL LISTENING
Status: Definitive
Code: **5515STE** (118567)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

Owning School/Faculty: Engineering
Teaching School/Faculty: Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts

Team	Leader
Karl Jones	

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 12
Total Delivered Hours: 42
Total Learning Hours: 120
Private Study: 78

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	24
Tutorial	10
Workshop	8

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Portfolio	LOGS		60	
Test	TEST		40	1

Aims

It is crucial that audio professionals actively and continuously develop and maintain their ability to listen and hear. The aim of this module is to encourage students to further develop their critical listening skills, but importantly, to contextualize these within the more subjective areas of music recording & production and other creative audio fields. It is important to note that 'audio quality' as a technical concept is distinct from 'appropriateness of sound', and while highest audio quality is the sound

engineer's responsibility, this may be tempered by other artistic or commercial requirements. This module will explore these distinctions and encourage students to apply findings to their own work.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Identify the effects of equipment and environment on the physical qualities of sound
- 2 Categorise the physical qualities of sound
- 3 Evaluate the musical elements of recordings in a coherent manner and communicate this effectively
- 4 Examine the structures, conventions and techniques employed in a variety of popular music genres

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

PORTFOLIO OF LISTENING LOGS	1	2	3	4
AURAL LISTENING TEST	1			

Outline Syllabus

Auditory Perception

Ear training exercises and practice including: identification of frequencies and frequency bands, frequency masking in practice, loudness perception and sound level, review of pitch & timbre.

Critical listening

Identification and articulation of the effects of equipment and environment on the physical qualities of sound: listening to frequency and transient response, types of distortion.

Analytical listening

Song arrangement & structure, instrumentation, musical performance, intensity vs loudness, pitch & timing issues.

Popular genres

Identifying significant musical and audio elements in popular music genres through critical and analytical listening.

Introduction to music theory

Introduction to musical terminology, rhythm & tempo, basic musical notation and following a score, mapping song arrangements.

Learning Activities

Content will predominantly be delivered through structured listening sessions; firstly to aid the development of students' auditory perception by giving audio examples of concepts covered elsewhere in the program with further supporting technical information where required; and secondly to encourage the development of more analytical listening skills through focused exploration of several popular music genres.

Notes

Students will be expected to devote significant time to their own study and will undertake structured tasks on identification of spot frequencies and audio artefacts as well as considerable reflection on, and development of their own work.