

Musical Acoustics

MUSC - 1550 001

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature and behavior of sound, how sound waves are transmitted, how they are perceived by humans and consequences of these characteristics that can impact the production of music both in recording and performance settings.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of harmonic spectra, especially as they relate to musical sounds, how they are perceived as timbre, how this affects orchestration and instrumental doubling, how various forms of sound generation impact the timbre/harmonic spectrum generated by instruments, and how instrumental acoustics can impact effective microphone placement in close-microphone recording situations.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the principles and terminology associated with room acoustics and how different environments impact musical performance and recording activities.
- Students will demonstrate the ability to apply acoustic formulas and perform basic computations relative to acoustic principles learned.

Course Prerequisites

EIT 1110 or equivalent

Engagement Plan

Please communicate with me via Canvas messages.

I will usually respond within 48 hours, if not sooner.

Grades/feedback will be assessed within 72 hours of the related due date/time, if not sooner.

Keys for Success (how to succeed in the course)

Success in this class is simple: show up, pay attention, actively participate in discussions, make sure you complete your PowerPoint presentation on time, and submit suggested edits on time.

Required Text or Materials



Title: Musical Acoustics

Subtitle: ISBN-13: 978-0534377281).

ISBN: 978-0534377281

Authors: Donald E. Hall, Brooks Cole

Publication Date: 2001

Edition: 3rd

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Brief Description of Assignments/Exams

This seminar-style class has one major assignment, a PowerPoint presentation on a chapter (or sub-chapter) from the course text.

In addition to a Starter Exam, there will be three additional exams spread over the course of the semester, covering the material that has been presented in class so far. They are open-book, with no time limit.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
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Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Roll Call Attendance	Assignment	100
8/28/25	Graded Discussion: Introduce Yourself	Discussion	50
9/2/25	Participation - Rite Of Spring/Chapter 1	Assignment	50
9/4/25	Starter Quiz - Physics of Sound	Quiz	83
9/4/25	Assignment 1 - Vibrations	Assignment	60
9/8/25	Assignment 2 - Sound Sources	Assignment	60
9/14/25	Assignment 3 - Class Presentation	Assignment	260
10/2/25	Musical Acoustics - Exam 1	Quiz	130
10/23/25	Musical Acoustics - Exam 2	Quiz	106
12/16/25	Musical Acoustics - Exam 3	Quiz	127

Grading Scale

94-100% = A 90-93% = A-

87-89% = B+ 83-86% = B 80-82% = B-

77-79% = C+ 73-76% = C 70-72% = C-

67-69% = D+ 63-66% = D 60-62% = D-

59% or less = E

How to Navigate to Canvas

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling

Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)