



**Basic Broadcasting  
Fall 2006  
Instructor: Bruce Wirth**

**11/2 - Week 1**

**Course overview:**

- Expectations: reasons for taking this class
- Public/community radio overview
- Station policy and etiquette
- Station tour

**Equipment overview:**

- board, CD player, minidisc player, cassette, turntable, DAT

**Operating the board:**

- maintaining proper levels
- cueing records, CDs
- crossfading



**Assignment 1:**

*Sign up for classroom time; practice cueing, cross-fading, and monitoring levels. Make sure you understand these concepts:*

1. Cueing CDs and records
2. Cueing a CD from somewhere in the song other than its beginning
3. Previewing the last few seconds of a song
4. How to listen to something in cue while something else is playing to program
5. The difference between monitor and headphone level (volume), and the level you read at the meters
6. Cross-fading CD to CD.

*Remember, a channel will not play in the main monitors if the "cue" button is still on.*

## 11/9 - Week 2

### Troubleshooting

#### Cue/ crossfade review

#### Announcing: elements and style

- basics of a mic break
- legal and station IDs
- back announce, forward promote
- public service announcements
- promos

#### Microphone technique:

- voice modulation
- “personality”



#### Assignment 2:

*Record a mic break to tape (or minidisc, if you prefer) including a back-announce, ID, PSA and forward promotion. The break should include the end of a song, your mic break, then more music, so we can hear your transitions from music to mic, and vice-versa.*

*Bring your tape or minidisc to class, cued up to your best break. We'll listen to and talk about them.*

#### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

*Tape your favorite radio host or DJ doing a Mic break—just one break—and bring it class next week.*

## 11/16 - Week 3

### Listen to recorded mic breaks

#### Announcing: structure

- music programming
- program logs
- traffic/weather, news, and time

#### Legalities:

- obscenity/indecency laws
- public file, licenses



#### Assignment 3:

*Listen to one hour of radio programming and make a program log AND pie chart based on what you've heard. Identify PSAs, promos, IDs, etc. This can be any station you choose, but you must not be doing anything else while listening (that includes driving, making dinner, etc.).*

*I want you to focus on the details of what you're hearing, from the perspective of someone who now knows a bit more about the mechanics of being a DJ. How long are the mic breaks? How frequent? Commercials? How long and how many? Style of mic breaks? How many songs in a row? Back announces? Forward announces? Station IDs?*

*If you're spreadsheet-inclined, feel free to do this exercise on Excel. If not, sketching something out by hand is perfectly acceptable. The important thing is that you sit (or stand, or recline) for one full hour, **doing nothing but listening to the radio** and taking detailed notes. What you hear may surprise you.*

## **11/30 - Week 4**

### **Review logs and charts**

### **Announcing: putting it all together**

#### **Introduction to the Air Room: equipment and etiquette**

- meter readings
- EAS



#### **Assignment 4:**

*Do take-home test, and bring it with you to next week's class.*

*Record a mock broadcast, combining mic breaks with mini music sets.*

## **12/7 – Week 5**

### **Listen to selected mock broadcasts, as well as example KSER DJ mic breaks**

#### **Course Review:**

- Go over written test
- Review airchecks
- Review board operation, announcing, legalities
- Questions, fine tuning
- Airshifts and other volunteer opportunities at KSER
- Volunteer Agreement & Programmer Handbook



#### **Assignment 5:**

*Prepare your mock broadcast for live performance.*

## **12/14 – Week 6**

#### **Final Exam:**

- Perform mock broadcasts
- Questions and clarifications
- Course evaluations