

MCM 171 (2 sections), T/T 11-12:20 & 2-3:20

Basic Audio Production & Performance

Fall 2009

Instructor: Mr. Strait

Phone: 294-4731

Classroom CB 319

Office Hrs. See office board (or by appt.)

Office: DRB 101

e-mail: mls015@shsu.edu

Description: Study and practice in the use of microphone techniques, music, and sound effects. Each student receives intensive practice in actual production. Productions of sufficient merit have the possibility of being broadcast. 3 hrs. credit.

OBJECTIVES: (pay particular attention to #3)

1. The objective of this class is to provide the skills needed to create audio media. By the end of this course students should be able to:

Understand and apply the techniques and theory of the authors in the text.

Understand and apply the different techniques and theory provided by lecture and discussion. Understand the relative methods and production techniques used professionally.

Identify the underlying methods used in professional media creation.

Evaluate the various types of audio production methods exam their uses and gratification

2. Developed creative capacities by:

Writing appropriate radio scripts and/or radio rundown.

Successfully completed all production assignments

Improving announcing skills

3. Developed specific skills, competencies and points of view in radio production:

Record/edit voice and practice on improving announcing skills

Record/edit a music bed with voice over

Record/edit a multi-track assignment

Have a working knowledge of the short cut production facilities in room 121.

Have a working knowledge of a portable recording system.

Have a working knowledge of the radio booth and DJ responsibilities.

4. Gained an understanding of the ethical and legal issues surrounding radio program production.

5. Improved their ability to analyze and critically evaluate program content and production methods.

Methods: Lecture, classroom discussion, screenings, writing, in and out of class room practice and projects. Students will be required to come to class prepared by reading all materials assigned before the start of class. Without being prepared for class prior to attending, students will not be able to fully participate in a quality-learning environment.

Text: Audio in Media, Stan Alten 8th Ed. Thomson

You will need to go to the following website and download the PDF GarageBand manual, which will eliminate the need to buy a second book:

<http://support.apple.com/kb/index?page=search&q=garage%20band>

This text is for your benefit. It will help you learn GarageBand. Download it!

Other Articles: materials assigned or provided by instructor

Lecture progress: We shall attempt 1 chapter / week, in order, starting in the beginning of the text (Alten). Some chapters may take a little longer. Quizzes may include questions about the lab or handouts. I reserve the right to vary from the schedule if necessary. In the event of unscheduled school closings, all lecture schedules will resume at the point they left off.

Any and all assignments are due at the specified (or the beginning of class) time. Late work is not accepted. Due to the number of students and the structure of this class with lab, it is extremely difficult to offer any leeway on deadlines. Signup times for lab work will be monitored and recorded. Students must keep track of their own grades (if you want to know where you stand). I will not answer questions relating to averages or grades. Late lab projects will not be accepted. Excuses for lack of lab time will not be accepted. Do NOT try to email scripts or projects to me. I do not accept them that way.

All writing projects (including scripts) must be neatly typed or wordprocessed. Handwritten material will not be accepted. Test answers must be neatly printed. I will count it wrong if I can not read it. All students must purchase CD-Rs for projects (get the cheap ones).

All electronic devices must be turned off or silenced and put away before class begins. You are not authorized to leave class to answer calls (unless you are on a transplant list). If you feel you must answer a call during class, take your things and leave class for the day. You will be counted absent. No text messaging, no silent listening and no discrete operation at all. This includes any and all use of electronic equipment (computers too). Any violation of this policy will result in an official absence for the day.

Appropriate Dress: Pants that show underwear, or where underwear should be, are inappropriate. Hoods are not to be worn during class, nor are bulky coats or head coverings. If special attire is required, contact me prior to attendance.

FOOD/DRINK POLICY:

NO FOOD or DRINK in any of the following rooms: 106, 108, 109, 110 or any other lab.
You will fail the course if you are caught.

Exams: There will be 1 exam, a final (worth 250 points).

quizzes: There will be 12, each worth 50 points. One will be an extra quiz, allowing you to discard the lowest grade. The first quiz will be over the syllabus and initial handouts. Other quizzes will follow completion of chapter.

Projects on disc: 4 at 50 points each (you will receive a standard evaluation for each project with a point total) Evaluations may not be as detailed, due to time constraints. There will be a separate handout outlining audio projects.

Total points for class 1000.

Minimum Points needed for: A – 900, B – 800, C – 700, D – 600

Weekly activity schedule:

Week 1	go through syllabus & handouts, tour lab, quiz on Thursday
Week 2	chptr 1&2
Week 3	chptr 3
Week 4	chptr 4 (first half)
Week 5	chptr 4
Week 6	chptr 5
Week 7	chptr 6
Week 8	chptr 7&8
Week 9	chptr 9
Week 10	chptr 10
Week 11	chptr
Week 12	chptr 12
Week 13	chptr 13
Week 14	chptr 14
Week 15	chptr ?
Week 16	chptr ?

Generally, there will be a quiz on Thursday over the chapter(s) reviewed during the week. If there is no class on Thursday we will take the quiz on Tuesday. We will not have a quiz during Thanksgiving week. This schedule is tentative and subject to change depending on student progress and any unexpected events. Those announcements will be made in class.

December 11 FRIDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign. (SEE RESIGNATION INFORMATION BELOW). Last day to drop Fall Semester courses without grade of F.

December 14, 15, 16, 17 MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY. Final examinations (includes Monday Night (MN), Tuesday Night (TuN), Wednesday Night (WN) and thursday Night (ThN) final examinations).

December 18 FRIDAY. Residence halls close at 12:00 noon.

December 18, 19 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum.

December 21 MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Fall Semester Ends.

Attendance: The attendance policy shall be in accordance with the policies and procedures of the department and university. Arriving late to class and leaving early shall be counted as an absence. (if you're not there when I take role, you're absent) If class is missed due to illness or other excusable reasons, you are expected to see the instructor immediately upon return to school regarding missed work. Missing class for any reason other than an excused absence on any day that work is required, or an exam is given, will result in the immediate and non-negotiable loss of that grade. If an excused absence results in the missing of work or exam, it is the student's responsibility to make an appointment so a make up quiz may be given or alternate due date assigned. Assignments due when absent, are expected to be given to the instructor before the class period to be missed unless prior arrangements are made with the instructor.

Students will lose grades after 5 absences (4 for Tuesday/Thursday classes). Any student with perfect attendance will receive no lower than a "C", providing they make an effort to do the work and do not cause problems (and remain awake). Professional behavior dictates that students be present for class. You have 4 absences at your discretion. After 4, you lose 1 letter grade. Do not bring excuses or ask for absences to be excused. I won't keep you informed of your attendance, nor argue about it.

Student absences on religious Holy Days policy: Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall not be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

Student Conduct: Student conduct is expected to be in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline. In particular, section 5.1 related to academic honesty. The university defines plagiarism according to the subsection 5.32 as “Plagiarism means the appropriation and unacknowledged incorporation of another’s work or idea into one’s own work offered for credit.” Plagiarism of any sort will result in automatic failure of the course. Students are also expected to avoid Collusion defined by subsection 5.33 and any breach of ethical academic boundaries.

Students are also expected to conduct themselves in the classroom in a manner that is respectful to others and the learning environment. Any noise producing distractions (cellular phones, music players, etc.) are required to be turned off or left outside the classroom. Any conduct deemed by the instructor to be disrespectful will result in the student being asked to leave and may result in the loss of grade points. Students asked to leave the classroom will have to meet with the chair of the department to explain their actions prior to being allowed to return to the classroom. The student will also be required to address the classroom regarding their actions.

Note that I further insist that students not bring food into classrooms.

Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities are protected from the discrimination under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. In accordance with the student guidelines, students that need special consideration should “Register with Sam Houston State University Services for Student with Disabilities (SSC) (936) 294-3786.” Students should also notify the instructor within one week from the first class day.

If you are having trouble in this course: Please contact me, either by telephone, e-mail or by an office appointment. I’m here to help you and want to see you succeed.

Q-Drop: Students will be allowed no more than 5 Q-drops during their academic career at SHSU. Classes that are dropped prior to the Q-drop date will not count toward the limit. Students who have used their limit of 5 Q-drops, will need to petition their respective dean to drop a class. If the dean refuses to grant permission to drop the class, the student will be required to remain in the class.

This limit took effect with the start of the fall 2004 semester. Any drops accumulated prior to the fall of 2004 will not be included in the 5 Q-drop limit. Neither will Q-drops from other universities.

NOTE: A Q-drop is a drop made after the last day for tuition refunds (12th class day for fall/spring; 4th day for summer) but before the date for which a drop would result in the grade of “F” as published in the Academic Calendar.

Information on this document is subject to change. Changes will be announced in class or via e-mail notification. The best way to contact me is through email.

“Sometimes the world is cruel... to shiny things.” King of the Hill