

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
COMM 2307 Intro to Audio (Basic Radio)

SPRING 2022
Mon-Weds
2pm-3:15pm
Motion Capture Lab

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Regular Office Hours, Walk-in::
11AM-12PM M/W
1-2PM T/TH
All others by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an audio class focused specifically on three areas: storytelling, the physics and creation of sound, and the relationship between moving pictures and sound.

Sound is a physical phenomenon, with measurable properties. The production, manipulation, editing, and mixing of sound is an art. This class is about the intersection of the art and the science.

My expectation is that you'll leave this class a better storyteller, hearing and (strange as it may seem) *seeing* the world differently.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sound for Television and Film 3rd Edition

.pdf version uploaded to Blackboard. Check your Blackboard *Announcements* for the link. As I've made the text available to you at no cost, there's no excuse for not doing the reading.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

- 1) Your positive attitude is the difference between success and failure in art, life, and this class.
- 2) You will be on time. Which means, at minimum, five minutes before start of class.
- 3) YOU MUST READ. Quizzes are based on the reading, and will be IN CLASS only. No makeups. If you do your reading, these quizzes will be tough to fail. If you don't...you reap what you sow.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to all Communication majors.

At the end of this course:

- 1: Students will be able to analyze communication content for argument, including identification of major elements, such as claim, warrants, and data.
- 2: Students will be able to effectively construct messages appropriate to audience, purpose, and context; including electronic media technologies.
- 3: Students will be able to apply Communication theories, perspectives, principles, and concepts to the analysis of communication situations.

Communication Program Marketable Skills

1. Informative and Persuasive Speaking
2. Audience-centered Writing
3. Critical Analysis
4. Research
5. Effective Message Construction Using Technology

PREREQUISITES

None.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this class, students will:

- Demonstrate a working vocabulary of terminology of sound production
- Articulate the component phases of sound production
- Evaluate and critique theatrical and filmic sound design from standpoints of art and craft.
- Synthesize the elements of sound design into individual productions
- Demonstrate beginning-level mastery of recording, digital editing, and mixing equipment

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

- 1) Three quizzes on assigned reading
- 2) 2-3 page paper, analyzing the sound design of a movie
- 3) Recording assignment 1
- 4) Recording assignment 2
- 5) Recording assignment 3
- 6) Full participation in class discussion / critique
- 7) Final: Sound Replacement Exercise

Materials Required:

None

CLASS DATES: Assignments and Deadlines

Note that these dates and the details of each class are subject to change at the instructor's discretion, as class progress warrants.

DATE	TOPICS/ACTIVITY	READING
1/10	BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENT, thanks to Omicron. Topic: What is sound?	READ CHAPTER 1
1/12	BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENT, thanks to Omicron. Topic: Frequencies and Waves	
1/17	Quiz 1 and Discuss Chapter 1	READ CHAPTER 2
1/19	Chapter 1 continued	
1/24	Quiz 2 and Discuss Chapter 2	READ CHAPTER 3
1/26	Chapter 2 continued	
1/31	Quiz 3 and Discuss Chapter 3	READ CHAPTER 4
2/2	Chapter 3 continued	
2/7	Discuss Chapter 4. ASSIGN PAPER	
2/9	Microphones	
2/14	More Microphones	
2/16	Digital Recorders	
2/21	Digital Recorders	
2/23	Intro to Protools or Reaper, Recording Assignment 1	
2/28	Play back Recording Assignment 1, Recording Assignment 2	
3/2	Protools / Reaper	
3/7 – 3/11	SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS. Please don't get arrested. <small>Unless it's gonna be a <i>great</i> story. And you have bail money. Even then, give it some thought...</small>	
3/14	Play back Recording Assignment 2, Recording assignment 3	
3/16	Assign sound replacement exercise	
3/21	Paper Due	
3/23	Play back Recording Assignment 3	
3/28	Live Mixing	
3/30	Live Mixing	
4/4	Live Mixing	
4/6	Field Recording – class does not meet.	
4/11	Field Recording – class does not meet.	
4/13	Field Recording – class does not meet.	
4/18	Editing	
4/20	Editing	

4/25	Editing	
4/7	TBD – winter weather flexibility	
5/3	FINAL MONDAY MAY 3rd, 3-5pm	

GRADING

Assignments are valued as follows:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1) Three quizzes on assigned reading @ 5% each | 15% |
| 2) 2-3 page paper analyzing the sound design of a movie/game | 15% |
| 3) Recording assignment 1 | 5% |
| 4) Recording assignment 2 | 10% |
| 5) Recording assignment 3 | 10% |
| 6) Attendance plus participation in class discussion / critique | 20% |
| 7) Final: Sound Replacement Exercise | 25% |

Grading Criteria:

A = Exceptional. Demonstrates mastery of material beyond expectation. Professional quality of work. Highest level of scholarship.

B = Above average. Demonstrates mastery of material. Work is of better-than-expected quality, but not quite professional. High level of scholarship.

C = Average. Demonstrates proficiency with material. Work is of amateur quality. Ordinary level of scholarship.

D = Below Average. Less than proficient with material. Work shows errors, careless mistakes, or is just plain wrong. Poor scholarship.

F – Failure. Material incomplete. Work grossly negligent or incomplete. No evidence of scholarship present.

LATE PAPERS

Deadlines are an inescapable part of responsible, professional, adult life. Late papers will lose a letter grade for each day that the paper is late.

If you discover, *a week or more in advance*, that you have multiple deadlines converging on the same day, you may request a change in deadline. Such a change may be granted at the instructor's discretion. Once the deadline has passed, it's too late to ask for exceptions. Manage your time and deadlines wisely.

TARDINESS / ABSENCE POLICY

Attendance is 25% of your grade. That's the difference between an "A" and a "C"...or a really easy way to earn an "F."

TARDINESS

Class **BEGINS EXACTLY AT THE APPOINTED TIME**. It is your responsibility to be prepared to begin **BEFORE** the class starts.

Three instances of tardiness is equivalent to one absence. See below for the class absence policy.

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY ENTRY TO STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT PRESENT AT THE START OF CLASS* – ON THE HOUR. PLAN ACCORDINGLY. ON-TIME is EARLY!

*Exceptions will be made only for those with classes located in RAS whose end time makes on-time arrival impossible.

Punctuality is essential in this business. Tardiness will not be tolerated.

Absence Policy, from the Sul Ross State University 2012-2014 Course Catalogue:

CLASS ATTENDANCE

Regular class attendance is important to the attainment of the educational objectives of the University. Each instructor will keep class attendance records, and the instructor's policy on class attendance will be explained at the beginning of the semester or term.

The instructors will drop a student from a course when the student has a total of nine absences. A student will be dropped for excessive absences in remedial courses after nine absences.

An absence is defined as non-attendance in fifty minutes of class; for example, non-attendance in a one and one-half hour class will constitute one and one-half absences and non-attendance in a three hour class will constitute three absences. An absence because of participation in an official University activity is considered to be an authorized absence.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. Any student who because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. If an accommodation is needed, students must present their accommodation letter, obtained from Accessibility Services, as soon as possible. Please note that instructors are not permitted to provide classroom accommodations to a student until the appropriate verification has been received. Accessibility Services is in Ferguson Hall room 112. You can make an appointment by calling Mary Schwartze Grisham at 432 837-8203.