

Radio Production RTV1240C Syllabus

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Course Description

This course studies the aesthetics and techniques of audio production and will include scripting, editing, and production of several program forms using the audio workstations in room 2140 of the North Campus.

Course Competencies

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

1. Describe the functions of aural communication in the media
2. Demonstrate a theoretical knowledge of the basic aesthetics and techniques of audio production
3. Operate audio equipment and apply audio aesthetics and techniques to the art and craft of audio production
4. Demonstrate “listening” skills and the ability to “see” sound pictures
5. Articulate projected trends in radio/audio technology and technique based on recent developments in the medium

Required Text

Radio Production Worktext: Studio & Equipment, 5th edition. David E. Reese/Lynne S. Gross/Brian Gross (Focal Press, 2005)

Other Course Requirements

Students will be expected to supply their own CD-Rs, USB drives, or other storage media for production projects.

Methodology Statement

The structure of the course is lecture/lab/discussion. Although classes will vary, in general they will begin with a review of the assigned chapter that includes going over the examples on the CD-ROM and the Self Study questions found both in the text and on the CD-ROM. Students will then be given a chapter quiz. During the lab portion of the class, students will work on projects related to the particular chapter and on a major semester-long group project.

Course Notes

Course content/scheduling is subject to change; all changes will be announced in class. Regular class attendance is the student's responsibility. In general, there is no provision for late or make-up work. Exceptions or accommodations will be made for make-up work only for unavoidable and documented emergencies, such as a serious illness, a death in the family, or an approved university field trip. Students who have missed an

exam or project because of one of the reasons listed above may be given an alternate exam or special project at the discretion of the instructor. All students should be alert to test dates and due dates for production projects. Engaging in any form of dishonesty, including plagiarism (to steal the words, ideas, etc., of another and use them as one's own) will result in a failing grade for the course and a report to the College for Disciplinary Action. Production work can be accomplished in the radio station facility, but students with their own professional-quality equipment are welcome to use it. The instructor will be available for individual help throughout the term. This course should expand your ability to manipulate audio equipment and deepen your sensitivity of what constitutes fresh, exciting radio production. Additional production materials, such as production music beds or sound effects CDs, will be available for your use in the production studios. During the term, it will be your responsibility to reserve production studio time (and pressure may be rather intense at times for these facilities). Please keep your scheduled time if you sign-up so that the studio is actually used. Be prompt in arriving and leaving and clean up after you work in the studio. Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you believe you need of such accommodations. Accommodations will not be granted retroactively. If you feel lost during the course, ask the instructor for help. I hope you enjoy the class and have fun with it!

Evaluation Criteria

Your final grades will be based on examinations, several production projects, and class participation equaling 400 points, as detailed below. At the end of the semester, these grades will be added up to determine each student's course grade. In all probability, the final grade will be based on percentages: 90–100%=A, 80–89%=B, 70–79%=C, 60–69%=D, and anything under 60%=F. However, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the grading system based on class performance.

Quizzes—10%

There will be 10-point quizzes to test chapter knowledge. Each student's lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final—30%

Near the middle of the semester, students will be given a midterm test over the chapters covered up to that point.

Class Projects—50%

During most labs, students will be assigned to complete one project detailed in the textbook chapter assigned for the class. These will be graded on quality, technique, thoroughness, creativity, and other characteristics, depending on the nature of the project. Each assignment will be worth 10 points and each student's 10 highest grades will be counted. Some projects will be individual and some will involve several students working together. When students work together, they will all receive the same grade.

Attendance—10%

This grade will include attendance, the extent to which each student participates in class, and the degree to which he or she helps other students and shows interest in class activities.

CLASS POLICY

1. Reading the syllabus is the student's responsibility
2. Attendance is up to 10% of your grade. 4 unexcused absences will result in an automatic F in the course. Valid excuses are a signed letter from a medical doctor that I can call to verify that you were sick, a letter from a judge and a verifiable personal emergency or tragedy. If you are late 20 minutes or more, you are marked absent. Two late arrivals equal one absence.
3. Exercises and assignments are to be delivered on time. If you are late in delivering an exercise, 15% will be deducted for every day past the due date.
4. If you miss class, for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed by writing an e-mail to the instructor.
5. When I am demonstrating and showing techniques on the screen you must watch and not work on something else. This course relies heavily on on-screen demos. More than 50% of the questions that come up are a result of not watching the professor's demonstrations.
6. Class time is designated to set direction, discuss and demonstrate new concepts and techniques, and to give critiques and feedback on work done to date. It is not expected that students will complete all assigned projects during class hours. Students are expected to work additional lab hours outside of class time to complete the course requirements. You should anticipate spending an average of 3 hours per week outside of class to complete assigned work.
7. Students should join in the classroom discussion. Students should expect constructive criticism from the instructor and the classmates.
8. SEDT is not responsible for lost, corrupt, or deleted projects. It is the student's responsibility to backup his/her work. Students are expected to backup their work after each editing session.
9. Never touch any cabling, or reconfigure any computer without the instructor's or lab manager's permission and supervision.
10. No food or liquids allowed In The Lab! Eat or drink outside.

Course Topics

The following schedule details approximately what will occur each week. However, this schedule is subject to change as circumstances dictate.

Week 1

Intro to Pro Tools

Week 2

Pro Tools continued

Chapter 1: The Production Studio Environment

Discuss ideas for major productions

Chapter 2: Digital Audio Production

Decide on major production ideas

Chapter 3: The Audio Console

Form groups for major productions

Week 3

Chapter 4: Microphones

MIDTERM – Practical Pro Tools Assignment

Week 4

Chapter 5: Digital Audio Players/Recorders

Chapter 6: Digital Editing and Multi-Track Recording

Chapter 7: Signal Processing Equipment

Week 5

Chapter 8: Monitor Speakers, Cables, Connectors, and Studio Accessories

Chapter 10: Production Situations

Week 6

Chapter 11: Internet Radio and Other Distribution Techniques

FINAL – Practical Pro Tools Assignment