

Course Syllabus
MCM 171: Basic Audio Production & Performance
Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Maurice Odine **Phone:** 294-1346 **Classroom:** CB 105
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday – 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Office: CB 308 **e-mail:** mso001@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. Prerequisites: RTV 163 with a grade of C or better. Credit: 3 hrs.

Objectives: The objective of this class is to provide the skills needed to create audio media. You will be expected to understand and apply the techniques and theory of the authors in the text, different techniques and theory provided by lecture and discussion, and the relative methods and production techniques used professionally. By the end of this course, you should be able to identify the underlying methods used in professional media creation. Various types of methods will be examined and their uses and gratification examined. This class includes a lab, and lab projects.

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 7th Ed. Thomson, Adobe Audition 1.5 tutorial

Other Articles: Materials assigned or provided by instructor.

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 lab time, it is extremely difficult to offer any leeway on deadlines. Signup times for lab work will be monitored and recorded. Late lab projects will not be accepted.

All writing projects (including scripts) must be neatly typed. Handwritten material will not be accepted. Test answers must be neatly printed. 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. Students are not allowed to leave class to answer calls (unless they are on a transplant list). If a student feels he/she must answer a call during class, he/she must pick up her belongings and leave class. There is to be no text messaging, no silent listening, and no discrete operation of electronic instruments.

IMPORTANT: Absolutely no food or drink in the labs. Violation will cost you a letter grade.

Exams: There will be 1 exam, a final (worth 200 points).

Quizzes: There will be 10, each worth 20 points.

Projects on disc: 5 at 50 points each (you will receive a standard evaluation for each project with a point total)

Grading: A – 90-100; B – 80-89; C – 70-79; D – 60-69; F – Below 60

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 the instructor, either by telephone, e-mail or by an office appointment.

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 limits. 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.

