

MCM171
Audio Production & Performance
Summer II '08

Instructor: Mr. Strait
Phone: 294-4731
Classroom CB 105
Office Hrs. [see door]
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Description: [from catalog] 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: 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 8th Ed. Thomson, Adobe Audition 1.5 tutorial

Other Articles: handouts furnished by instructor

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 (or argue validity) relating to averages or grades. Late lab projects will not be accepted.

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 cannot 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. Prepare yourself for the workplace. Dress like you're going to work.

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

Lecture progress: We shall attempt 1 chapter / day (several will take a little longer), in order, starting in the beginning of the text. Some chapters may take a little longer. I reserve the right to vary from the schedule if necessary.

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

Projects: 3, each worth 250 points (details in separate handouts)

Term papers: none

Pop quizzes: none

Total points for class 1000.

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

All work must be done using our equipment, and in our labs.

Weekly activity schedule:

- July 8** TUESDAY. First class day. **Late Registration.** Process class schedule changes. Refer to the **Schedule of Classes** for details and deadlines. Evening Classes Begin.
- July 9** WEDNESDAY. Last day to **register** and to process schedule changes.
- July 11** FRIDAY. Fourth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund by 5:00 p.m. Classes Meet.
- July 17** THURSDAY. Half-session courses end. Last day to drop a half session course for the Second Summer Session with a "Q" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to resign for half-session courses receiving the mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m.
- July 18** FRIDAY. Classes meet.
- July 25** FRIDAY. Deadline for submission of theses and dissertations to the appropriate academic dean's office. Classes Do Not Meet.
- August 1** FRIDAY. Classes Do Not Meet.
- August 6** WEDNESDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign receiving a mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to drop a course without the grade of "F", before taking any scheduled exams or the last business day, whichever comes first (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.).
- August 7** THURSDAY. Final examinations. Residence halls close at 12:00 Noon.
- August 9** SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum
- August 11** MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Second Summer Session ends.

Writing Center: The Sam Houston Writing Center, located in Farrington 111, is open M-F from 8am until 7pm, Friday from 8am until 3pm, and Sunday from 2pm until 7pm. Writing tutors will work with you one-on-one to help you generate, organize, or revise a draft of any assignment in any subject. You can drop by to work with a tutor or call (936) 294-3680 to schedule an appointment.

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 3 absences (for summer 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 3 absences at your discretion. After 3, 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. You will only lose 1 letter grade from absences, unless they total more than 25% of total meetings, in which case you fail the course regardless of other grades.

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.

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.