

MRTS 3210 Audio Production

Instructor Contact

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Course Description

This course provides students with a survey of audio production concepts and techniques using audio laboratory studio and location sound equipment. Areas covered include basic digital audio recording and editing, digital delivery techniques, audio equipment, podcast production, and audio for digital cinema.

Course Structure

This course is taught Face-to-Face with some online components. There is a large lecture section with smaller lab sections. We will follow the course schedule unless unforeseen conditions or situations warrant a change. Modules will be opened in Canvas at specific times sequentially, and are designed to support the lab and the lecture.

Course Prerequisites or Other Restrictions

MRTS or CBCM major status, MRTS 2210 and a 2.75 GPA.

Course Objectives

This course fulfills the CLASS requirement for Communication and Digital Skills. At the end of this course, students should be able to demonstrate effective communication using a digital technological platform. including:

- Demonstrate the ability to communicate a central idea effectively using appropriate organization/structure.
- Demonstrate the ability to develop content at an advanced level using a combination of effective supporting materials.

Additionally, by the end of this course, students will be able to:

- (CO1) Identify the theory, terms, practices and concepts of audio production
- (CO2) Demonstrate appropriate use of location recording equipment
- (CO3) Demonstrate appropriate use of studio recording and editing equipment
- (CO4) Produce quality audio
- (CO5) Identify important legal and ethical issues of audio production
- (CO6) Identify appropriate behavior and presentations of audio professionals

Materials

- Text- Sauls, Samuel J. et. Al. *Audio Production Worktext*. Boston: Focal Press, 9th Edition. 2019
 - Note: You can also use the 8th Edition (I recommend renting this online to save money)
- Circum-aural headphones (more on this in lab)
- External flash drive
- Location and Studio Audio Recording Equipment (provided)
- Audio Editing Software (provided)
- Microphones and Recording Media (provided)
- Computer or iPad capable of running Respondus Lockdown Browser Reliable internet (note Chromebook does not support the software)access
- Computer Speakers
- Circum-aural headphones
- Computer Microphone
- Computer Webcam
- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- [Canvas Technical Requirements \(https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements\)](https://clear.unt.edu/supported-technologies/canvas/requirements)
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Projects

Thirty or Sixty Second Commercial

Write, voice and produce an original audio commercial.

Podcast

Produce one original podcast utilizing voice, music and sound effects.

Film Soundscape Creation

Produce a stereo soundscape for a provided scene utilizing music, Foley and specially created sound effects. Utilize noise reduction software to clean up sound.

Note: More details on all projects are provided in lab and on Canvas.

Late projects will not be accepted.

Assessments and Weighting

Grades are based on point totals, not percentages. Ignore percentages listed in the gradebook on Canvas.

A = 90-100 points

B = 80-89 points C = 70-79 points D = 65-69 points F = 64 and below

| Assignment | Points Possible | Percentage of Final Grade |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Quizzes/Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 @ 2 points ea.• Introduce Yourself @ 2 points | 30 points | 30% |
| Commercial Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Project• Peer Review | 10 points 5 points | 10% 5% |
| Podcast Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual Project• Peer Review | 10 points 5 points | 10% 5 % |
| Exams <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3@ 5 points ea. | 15 points | 15% |
| Film Soundscape Project Individual Project <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer Review | 15 points 5 Points | 15% 5% |
| Proficiency Exam | 5 points | 5% |
| Total Points Possible | 100 points | 100% |

Please note that late work will not be accepted. There is one Respondus + Webcam quiz for extra credit, as well as extra credit for on-time attendance with no unexcused absences.

Attendance Policy

You are expected to attend each class and lab in its entirety and be on time. If there is an issue that prevents you from coming to class or working in the course (such as an urgent medical situation, death in the family, active military service, etc.) please contact the Dean of Students for a verified absence.

Perfect on-time attendance will be rewarded with extra credit! Conversely, you will be penalized for being late and for unexcused absences.

On-Time Attendance with no unexcused absences: 2 bonus points

On-Time Attendance with one unexcused absence: 0 bonus point

On-Time Attendance with two unexcused absences: -2 bonus points

On-Time Attendance with three unexcused absences: -4 point subtracted from your final grade

On-Time Attendance with four unexcused absences: -6 points subtracted from your final grade

And so on...

Assignment Policy

Assignment due dates are listed in the course schedule of the syllabus. All written assignments must be a Microsoft Word file unless otherwise stated. Projects will be turned in during lab and are due at the start of lab for initial submissions, and at 11:59pm for reviews and final submissions. For instance, your

lab is at 9am, your initial project submission is due at 9am. A project turned in at 9:05 is considered late. In the event of UNT closure, you will receive instructions.

In the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will extend the time windows and provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and contact the UNT Student Help Desk: helpdesk@unt.edu or 940.565.2324 and obtain a ticket number. The instructor and the UNT Student Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Technology

MRTS 3210 assumes that all work submitted by students will be generated and performed by the students themselves, working individually. Students should not have another person/entity do the work of any portion of an assignment for them, which includes hiring a person or a company to write and produce assignments and using artificial intelligence tools like ChatGPT.

Examination Policy

Exams and some quizzes are taken online. You are expected to take these exams by yourself with no additional help, including from your text, notes or other apps. You are required to use Respondus and a webcam while you take the exam. You should be within camera frame at all times during the exam. Failure to do so could result in a zero for the exam.

Should you lose Internet connection during an exam, contact the Student Helpdesk and document the remedy ticket number before contacting me. Make-up exams are only given with a verified excuse from the Dean of Students. Contact the Dean of Students: deanofstudents@unt.edu or 940.565.2648.

Class Participation

You are expected to participate in lecture, lab, discussion, projects and any assignment designed to create participation opportunities.

Late Work

Late work will not be accepted without a verified absence from the UNT Dean of Students Office within two business days of return to school.

Course Technology

Technical Assistance

UNT has a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UIT Help Desk: [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm) (<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm>)

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

For additional support, visit [Canvas Technical Help](https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328) (<https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10554-4212710328>)

Success in a Course

Check Canvas often and route announcements to your email that is checked most frequently. Install the Canvas app on your mobile device. Reminders, updates and other important information will be distributed via Canvas.

Don't wait until the last minute to begin working on assignments, and don't wait until the last minute to turn them in. Unless a computer issue is related to the UNT systems or Canvas, personal computer issues are not legitimate reasons to submit late work. Be proactive and start early on your assignments to avoid issues!

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus will not change through this semester. However, the course schedule may be altered, with prior student notification.

UNT Policies

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodations

ADA Accommodation Statement. UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)

The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. Visit UNT's [Code of Student Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)](https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct) (<https://deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct>) to learn more.

Class Recordings

This course will, at times, employ lecture capture technology to record sessions. Class recordings are the intellectual property of the university or instructor and are reserved for use only by students in this class and only for educational purposes. Students may not post or otherwise share the recordings outside the class, or outside the Canvas Learning Management System, in any form. Failing to follow this restriction is a violation of the UNT Code of Student Conduct and could lead to disciplinary action.

The instructor reserves the right to change the course schedule with prior student notification.

MRTS 3210 Audio Production

Fall 2023 Course Schedule

August

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|------|-------------------------------|---|
| 8/22 | Module 1 | Review Syllabus The Nature of Sound and Production Planning |
| 8/27 | Video Syllabus Module 1 | Meet Your Classmates Video due by 11:59pm Online Syllabus Quiz Due by 11:59pm; Module 1 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| 8/29 | Module 2 | Studio Environment and Location Sound |

September

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|------|------------------|---|
| 9/3 | Module 2 | Module 2 Quiz Due by 11:59pm Respondus Quiz (for bonus points) due by 11:59pm |
| 9/5 | Module 3 | Digital Audio, Audio Players and Recorders |
| 9/10 | Module 3 | Module 3 Quiz Due by 11:59pm |
| 9/12 | Module 4 | Microphones, Speakers, Headphones |
| 9/15 | Project 1 | Project 1 Pre-Submission due at start of lab |
| 9/17 | Module 4 | Module 4 Quiz Due by 11:59pm |
| 9/19 | Exam | Exam I (Over Modules 1, 2, 3, and 4) ONLINE (Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam) Due by 11:59pm |
| 9/22 | Project 1 | Project 1 Peer Review due by 11:59pm |
| 9/26 | Module 5 | Podcasting |
| 9/29 | Project 1 | Project 1 due by start of lab |

October

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|-------|-------------|--|
| 10/1 | Module 5 | Module 5 Quiz Due by 11:59pm |
| 10/3 | Module 6 | The Soundtrack (Part I) |
| 10/6 | Proficiency | Proficiency Exams (in Lab) |
| 10/10 | Module 6 | The Soundtrack (Part II) |
| 10/13 | Module 6 | Discussion initial posts due by 5pm |
| | Proficiency | Proficiency Exams (in Lab) |
| 10/15 | Module 6 | Module 6 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| | Module 6 | Module 6 Discussion reply posts due by 11:59pm |
| 10/17 | Exam | Exam II (Modules 5 and 6) ONLINE (Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam) Due by 11:59pm |
| 10/20 | Project 2 | Project 2 Pre-Submission due at start of lab |
| 10/24 | Module 7 | Signal Processing |
| 10/27 | Project 2 | Peer Reviews due by 11:59pm |
| 10/29 | Module 7 | Module 7 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| 10/31 | Module 8 | Mobile Media and Gaming |

November

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|-------|-----------|---|
| 11/3 | Project 2 | Project 2 Final Submission due by 11:59pm |
| 11/5 | Module 8 | Module 8 Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| 11/7 | Module 9 | Legal and Ethical Considerations |
| 11/10 | Module 9 | Discussion initial posts due by 5pm |
| 11/12 | Module 9 | Module 9 Quiz due by 11:59pm |

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|-----------------|-----------|---|
| | Module 9 | Discussion reply posts due by 11:59pm End of Semester Quiz due by 11:59pm |
| 11/14 | Module 10 | Module 10 Professional Development |
| 11/21 | | THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS!!! |
| 11/28 | | TBA |
| December | | |
| 12/1 | Project 3 | Project 3 Pre-Submission due by start of lab |
| 12/5 | Project 3 | Project 3 Peer Reviews due by 11:59pm |
| 12/8 | Project 3 | Project 3 Final Submission due by 11:59pm |
| 12/14 | Exam III | (Over Modules 7,8,9 and lab) ONLINE (Requires Respondus LockDown Browser + Webcam) Due by 11:59pm |