Instructor: Mark Lambert
Office: RTFP 275
Office Hours: Wed / Thu 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.; or appointment
Phone: 940.565.2435
Email: mark.lambert@unt.edu

Class Prerequisites: MRTS 3210 Audio Production; MRTS/CBCM major status. If you have not met the prerequisites, you will not be allowed to remain in this class.


If you have any difficulties with this class during the semester, or want to discuss further any concepts presented in class, please come see me in my office. Because of my full-time work with KNTU, I’m in the RTFP Building more than just my scheduled office hours and class time. Circumstances also might interfere with my scheduled office hours. With both those considerations, please call or email me before you come to my office to make sure I’m available and possibly save you a wasted trip.

NOTE: Due to privacy and confidentiality concerns, I will NOT discuss your grade/grades via email.

DESCRIPTION
- Advanced training in the art and technique of audio production for radio, TV, film, and other media. This will be achieved by exposing you to multi-track mixing, manipulating recorded audio files, microphone placement/technique, recording audio outdoors and indoors (studio and/or film set).

OBJECTIVE
- You should come away from this class with:
  - An understanding of mixing multi-track audio into a professional, finished product.
  - An understanding of microphones and their uses: polar patterns, functionality, proximity, etc.
  - An understanding of recording sound outdoors and indoors with an appreciation of some of the difficulties of making good recordings.
CONTENT

- **Reading.** You are expected to keep up with reading the textbook since its content will be the basis for much of what we discuss in class. Exam questions will come from both the textbook and material presented in class. I am NOT concerned with a lot of the details of electronics (I use equipment, but my brain does not do well with math, formulas, or schematics.)

- **Tests.** There will be two tests: a midterm and a final exam.

- **Projects.** There will be three projects: a multi-track audio drama (podcast material) utilizing Adobe Audition, a music (5-piece band) multi-track mix utilizing Pro Tools, and a video project utilizing Pro Tools for which you will do the sound design that will include music and sound effects.

BLACKBOARD

- PowerPoint presentations, handouts, and other information will be available on Blackboard. Please check it regularly.

ATTENDANCE

- Attendance will be taken at each class. If you cannot be in class due to illness, you must notify me by phone or email before class meets that you will not be attending; or bring me a document from a doctor, clinic, or hospital – otherwise your absence will be unexcused. Each unexcused absence will cause you to lose 2 points for each occurrence from your final grade.

- If you are a member of a UNT athletic team, musical group, or other university-sanctioned activity that requires you to miss class, please furnish the appropriate written permission before your absence.

GRADING

- A final letter grade will be assigned based on:
  - Pop quizzes (averaged) 5%
  - Tests (averaged) 20%
  - Project 1 25%
  - Project 2 25%
  - Project 3 25%
  - Minus points for absences (see above)

  \[ A = 100-90 / B = 89-80 / C = 79-70 / D = 69-60 / F = 59 \text{ and less} \]

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE / PERSONAL MOBILE DEVICES

- Civility in class is expected at all times. You MAY use a laptop, tablet, or mobile device (phones) for taking notes or to look up information for this class. Those devices are NOT to be used reading email, reviewing/updating social media sites, or texting while in class.

- Phones/mobile electronic devices should be silenced during class.

- You may not record any audio or video in class without prior permission.

- Electronic/mobile devices may not be used for anything during tests and/or quizzes.
Any student using a personal mobile device during class may have 5% deducted from his/her overall course grade for EACH occurrence.

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 Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities 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 classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.
- The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

- Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an “F” for the course.
- Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty.
- According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to:
  - use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
  - dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;
  - the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university;
  - dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or
  - any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage.
- According to the UNT catalog, the term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to:
  - the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and
  - the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

ADA / ODA

- The Media Arts Department cooperates with the Office of Disability Accommodation to make reasonable accommodations for qualified students (cf. Americans with Disabilities Act & Section 504, Rehabilitation Act). Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA
will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable 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 reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323. If this applies to you, please provide your notice by the next class.

Please note: Notification is hereby made in this syllabus that this course may involve potentially hazardous activities, the nature of which include working with exposure to electronically powered equipment. Accordingly, the Department of Media Arts has designated this course within category 2 (courses in which students are exposed to some significant hazards but are not likely to suffer serious bodily harm).

ADDITIONAL NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus with prior student notification.

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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**January**

**Mon – 23**  
Introduction, syllabus, and headphones.  
Chapter 1: How Sound Works  
Screening: *The Conversation*

**Mon – 30**  
Chapter 4: Planning for Sound  
Chapter 6: Microphones and Room Acoustics  
*Project 1: audio drama – Adobe Audition*

**February**

**Mon – 6**  
Chapter 7: Production Mic Technique  
Chapter 8: Production Recording  
*Submit audio drama script marked up with ideas for sound effects, processing, etc.*

**Mon – 13**  
*Possible guest speaker*  
Chapter 9: Recording Voice-Overs, ADR, and Effects  
Chapter 13: Editing Voices  
Pro Tools introduction
| Mon – 20 | *Possible guest speaker  
| Chapter 14: Working with Music  
| Chapter 15: Sound Effects  
| Submit Project 1: audio drama |
| Mon – 27 | *Possible guest speaker  
| (Cover chapters pushed because of guest speaker.)  
| Review / play Project 1  
| Project 2: music mix – Pro Tools |

**March**  
| Mon – 6 | Midterm Exam |
| Mon – 13 | Spring Break |
| Mon – 20 | *Possible guest speaker  
| Chapter 10: Postproduction Workflow  
| Chapter 16: Processing  
| Submit Project 2 |
| Mon – 27 | *Possible guest speaker  
| Chapter 17: The Mix  
| Chapter 18: “Help! It Doesn’t Sound Right!”  
| Project 3: sound design – Pro Tools |

**April**  
| Mon – 3 | Review / Play Project 2 |
| Mon – 10 | *Possible guest speaker |
| Mon – 17 | *Possible guest speaker |
| Mon – 24 | Submit Project 3 |

**May**  
| Mon – 1 |
| Sat – 6 | Final Exam |