

MRTS 4210 - Advanced Audio Production

Instructor: Omar Milano

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Classroom: Room 180F

Class Time: Thursdays 17:30 - 20:20

Office Hours: Thursdays 20:20 - 21:20

Textbook: [Location Sound Bible](#) by Ric Viers

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to give you a strong foundation in location sound recording for TV and film. The class offers you full hands-on training using industry standard pro-audio equipment, in order to acquire the required skills to capture clean, consistent, intelligible dialogue and sounds during production. Learning the techniques of location sound mixing and recording will not only prepare you to work on a variety of projects, they will also enhance your overall skills as future filmmakers.

ATTENDANCE

Since we only meet once a week, attendance is very important and unexcused absences will affect your grade. Each session will cover topics that build up to the next class meeting; therefore, you are responsible to catch up and review the material covered during an absence. You will be allowed one (1) free unexcused absence. After that, (2) points **for each** unexcused absence will be deducted from your **final grade**. In addition, if you arrive on time but you decide to leave early without notifying me, you will be marked absent on that day.

COMMUNICATION

When I need to send you information about the course (notifications, articles, updates to our schedule, etc.), you will receive an *Announcement* via Canvas; therefore, make sure that you check it regularly. If you have a question that needs to be answered promptly, please contact me via email and I will do my very best to respond in a timely manner.

REQUIREMENTS

You will need a set of over-the-ear headphones. Ear buds are not appropriate to professionally monitor sound. If you wish to invest in a good pair, the [Sony MDR-7506](#) headphones are considered the industry standard and they will endure years of abuse. You will also need a flash drive or an external hard drive to save your files. When projects are due, I will pick up your storage device at the beginning of class, I will download your files, and return your device after the transfer is complete. The *Location Sound Bible* textbook is a great resource for reviewing procedures and techniques.

TECH SUPPORT

During the term, you will use the Sound Devices 833 Mixer/Recorder to record all of your audio files. In addition, you will learn the advanced features that are commonly used during professional productions. If at any time, you need help troubleshooting an issue while using the 833, do not hesitate to contact Sound Devices during working hours at (800) 505-0625. The same assistance applies when using the Lectrosonics Wireless Systems, and they can be reached at (800) 821-1121. Both companies offer **outstanding** technical support of their products.

GRADING CRITERIA

Your final grade will be determined by the average score of three projects, a mid-term knowledge check, a team evaluation, a final exam, and your attendance. Please, read the criteria **carefully** to avoid confusion and surprises when grades are posted. You will team up with a classmate to work on your projects. You will work together as a sound team, assisting and complementing each other when needed. However, each student is required to demonstrate equal effort, commitment, and knowledge when completing projects and evaluations. One student alone will not carry the weight for the team. Furthermore, if your partner is absent on the day that a project is due, and they have the project file in their storage device, you are still responsible for an on-time submission. Five (5) points will be deducted from your grade for **every day** a project is late.

Grading will be as follows:

3 Short Projects	avg. of your 3 grades X .2 =	
Mid-Term Knowledge Check	your grade X .2 =	
Sync-Sound Evaluation	your grade X .3 =	
Final Exam	your grade X .3 =	
Attendance	unexcused absences, if any	
FINAL GRADE		

SYLLABUS POLICY

This syllabus outlines the guidelines and expectations for successful completion of the course. However, I may have to alter some activities and dates as needed.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

The Department of Media Arts cooperates with the [UNT Office of Disability Accommodation \(ODA\)](#) in order to make reasonable accommodations for students. If you are in need of an accommodation, contact ODA at (940) 565-4323.

SEMESTER EVALUATIONS

Students should complete the Student Perceptions of Teaching Evaluation (SPOT). This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on how this class was taught.

MOBILE DEVICE POLICY

You may use a laptop or tablet for taking notes, or to look up information for this class. These devices are **not** to be used for reading e-mail, reviewing/updating social media sites, or texting while in class. If you expect an important phone call or text message, respectfully leave and handle your business outside of the classroom.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This course adheres to the standards outlined in the [University of North Texas Policy Office](#).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Date	Activity	Assignments
Aug 20	Discuss Course Objectives - Assign Teams Ch. 1 - What is Location Sound Ch. 2 - Sound Basics Ch. 3 - Microphone Basics Ch. 4 - Microphones for Location Sound	Read Ch. 21, and 1-4
Aug 27	Ch. 10 - Signal Flow Ch. 13 - Mixers Ch. 11 - Recorders	Read Ch. 10,13,11 & 5
Sep 3	Ch. 5 - Booming Techniques Interior and Exterior Demo	Project 1 Read Ch. 7
Sep 10	Project 1 Due Ch. 7 - Wireless Systems Lectrosonics LMB/LR (Day 1)	
Sep 17	Ch. 7 - Wireless Systems Lectrosonics LMB/LR (Day 2) - Comtek FPM-216 Zaxcom VRX - Sennheiser G2	Read Ch. 6
Sep 24	Ch. 6 - Lav Techniques Lav Accessories and Wiring Talent Demo	Project 2
Oct 1	Project 2 Due Intro to Multi-Wiring and Automixer Demo	
Oct 8	Mid-Term Knowledge Check Single-System Mixing and Recording	Read Ch. 12
Oct 15	Ch. 12 - Sync Intro to TC Syncing	
Oct 22	Sync-Sound Recording - Day 1 Pre-Prod Logistics	
Oct 29	Sync-Sound Recording - Day 2 Interior - Single and Multi-Cam Demo	
Nov 5	Sync-Sound Recording - Day 3 Exterior - Sound Cart Set-up	Project 3 Read Ch. 20
Nov 12	Project 3 Due The Business of Show Biz	
Nov 19	Sync-Sound Evaluations	
Nov 26	THANKSGIVING - NO CLASS	
Dec 3	S-S Screenings - Review for Final	
Dec 10	Final Exam	