COMM 6822

**Course Description**

This course is designed primarily for students in the film and video production sequence. Emphasizing practical applications of sound recording techniques, signal processing, structuring and design, the course requires extensive "hands-on" work. We will also be discussing various theories dealing with the relationship of sound to image.

 Hybrid

   In order to adhere to safety guidelines and get through as much material as possible, this class will follow a hybrid model. The entire class will meet virtually     on Tuesdays and half the class will be in the edit lab on Thursdays (there will be exceptions that we'll discuss in the first class). You will also be checking out       mics and cameras from the equipment room and working on projects in small groups (again, there may be exceptions).

**Course Goals**

By the end of the course you should be able to demonstrate:

1- Knowledge of principles and aesthetics of audio, including a working

   technical vocabulary.

2- Proficiency in basic audio production techniques, including

   recording, editing and mixing.

3- The ability to conceptualize and carry out an audio design for a

   video sequence.

4- A working knowledge of both digital and analog audio

   production and post-production.

5- A familiarity with theoretical approaches to film sound.

**Prerequisites**

Motion Picture Production I and II

**Course Topics**

Module 1: Basic Principles of Sound

Module 2: Microphones

Module 3: Boom operation: Practice and Principles

Module 4: Sound Mixing: Production and Post Production

Module 5: Location Recording

Module 6: Using audio to create off-screen space.

Module 7: Recording Audio for Documentaries

Module 8: Sound Design Analysis

Module 9: The Art of Foley

Module 10: Recording and Editing Dialogue

Module 11: Creating Your Own Sound Design for a Film Sequence.

**Specific Course Requirements**

All students should have some experience editing picture and sound on a timeline using software such as Premiere Pro, Final Cut X, or others.

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

**Required Textbook**

Holman, Tomlinson. Sound for Film and Television. Third Edition. Focal Press. Available as an eText.

**Recommended Reading:**

Rose, Jay. Producing Great Sound for Film and Video, 4th Edition, Focal Press.

Pasquariello, Nicholas.  Sounds of Movies: Interviews with the Creators of Feature Sound Tracks.

Or LoBrutto, Vincent. Sound-On-Film: Interviews with Creators of Film Sound.

**Hardware and Software Requirements**

Premiere Pro or other editing platform.

Assessment and Grading

**Testing Procedures**

Two tests will be given online and must be completed in the amount of time indicated.

**Grading Procedure**

Grades on assignments will be based on technical quality of recordings, mixes and edits as well as the effectiveness of the audio track to complement and/or add to the information, emotion and overall effect of what we’re watching and listening to on the screen.

**Grading Scale**

93-100---A

90-93---A-
87-89---B+

83-86---B

80-82---B-

77-79---C+
73-76---C

70-72---C-

67-69---D+
60-66---D

Assignments and Participation

**Assignments and Projects**

Exam 1   10%

**Text/Poem Exercise (5%)**: Spoken word mixed with music

“**Cocktail Party” Effect (5%)** : Mix of individual dialogue and crowd sounds.

**Off Screen Space exercise (5%)**: Using FX you create an unseen environment for provided video

**Design Presentation (5%)**: Screen a film clip of your choosing and explain its effectiveness (oral or written)

**Documentary Exercise (10%)**: Recording with a boom and video camera, pose the same question to a number of people. Then edit the responses into a short film.

**Untouchables Foley Exercise** (15%): You will be given a clip from Brian De Palma’s “The Untouchables” for which you will have to record, mix and process the appropriate sound (you cannot use prerecorded sound).

**Dialogue Exercise (10%):**Choose an interesting location for a short dialogue. Record a short conversation with multiple angles and edit it for continuity.

**Final Sound Design (20%):**Choose a three to five minute segment of a narrative film with little or no dialogue and create an original soundtrack using all the tools and techniques available to you.

  20%

**Final Exam**  15%

Total: 100 Points

**Class Participation**

You must participate in all interactive aspects of the course such as discussions and are expected to communicate with the instructor as a learning resource. You should check the course bulletin board and your email frequently for announcements.

**Punctuality**

You need to keep up with assignments and readings as indicated in the Course Schedule.

 **Course Ground Rules**

Participation in this class is required; while group assignments may be curtailed due to Covid restrictions, you are expected to communicate with other students in any team projects, and keep abreast of course announcements; you must use the assigned university e-mail address rather than a personal e-mail address; you should address technical problems immediately; and you must observe course netiquette at all times.

**Equipment Checkout**

Completed equipment reservation forms must be sent to the instructor for approval. Use specific names for equipment. Requests for such items as "a microphone" will not be approved. Do not give forms to equipment room personnel unless they have been signed\*. Grade penalties will occur as the result of failure to inform equipment room personnel well in advance when you will not be using equipment you have reserved. Penalties will also occur when equipment is not returned on time. Repeated violations may result in the suspension of all equipment room privileges, which may well make it impossible for you to complete the course. YOU ARE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE DONE TO EQUIPMENT THAT IS SIGNED OUT IN YOUR NAME. You can contact the equipment room at 678-3180.

\* There will be exceptions

Guidelines for Communication

**Email**

<  Always include a subject line.

<! Remember without facial expressions some comments may be taken the wrong way. Be careful in wording your emails. Use of emoticons might be helpful in some cases.

<! Use standard fonts.

<! Do not send large attachments without permission.

<! Special formatting such as centering, audio messages, tables, html, etc. should be avoided unless necessary to complete an assignment or other communication.

<! Respect the privacy of other class members

**Discussion Groups**

Review the discussion threads thoroughly before entering the discussion. Be a lurker then a discussant.

Try to maintain threads by using the "Reply" button rather starting a new topic.

Do not make insulting or inflammatory statements to other members of the discussion group. Be respectful of others' ideas.

Be patient and read the comments of other group members thoroughly before entering your remarks.

Be cooperative with group leaders in completing assigned tasks.

Be positive and constructive in group discussions.

Respond in a thoughtful and timely manner.

**Chat**

Introduce yourself to the other learners in the chat session.

Be polite. Choose your words carefully. Do not use derogatory statements.

Be concise in responding to others in the chat session.

Be prepared to open the chat session at the scheduled time.

Be constructive in your comments and suggestion

Plagiarism and Integrity

Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Students guilty of academic misconduct, either directly or indirectly, through participation or assistance, are immediately responsible to the instructor of the class in addition to other possible disciplinary sanctions which may be imposed through the regular institutional disciplinary procedures. Expectations for academic integrity and student conduct are described in detail on the website of the Office of Student Accountability. Please read in particular, the section about "Academic Misconduct".

Library, Tutoring, and Other Resources

  The myMemphis Portal system, eCampus Student tab provides access to University library.

 The tutoring link in the course navigation bar provides access to free online tutoring through UpSwing tutoring.

Students With Disabilities

Qualified students with disabilities will be provided reasonable and necessary academic accommodations if determined eligible by disability services staff at the University of Memphis. Prior to granting disability accommodations in this course, the instructor must receive written verification of a student's eligibility for specific accommodations from the disability services staff. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with Disability Resources for Students (DRS) and to follow the established procedures for having the accommodation notice sent to the instructor.

 **COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy - Masks and Social Distancing**

All students, faculty and staff will wear masks in all public spaces, including our classroom (lab) per the COVID-19 policy. The first time a student enters a classroom without wearing a face covering, the student will be asked to leave the class until they return a covering. Further violations will be referred to the Office of Student Accountability. Students who repeatedly or flagrantly violate these community expectations may be referred for discipline under the Student Code and, if appropriate, immediately removed from campus by the Dean of Students.

**Student Health**

Students who are experiencing symptoms such as sneezing, coughing or a higher than normal temperature should inform me by email so they can be excused from class and should stay home. Students should contact their health care provider or the Student Health Center at [https://www.memphis.edu/health/.](https://www.memphis.edu/health/)

Students who have a positive COVID-19 test should contact the Dean of Students at deanofstudents@memphis.edu.

**Student Accommodations**

If and when we return to class, students seeking to remain remote for health or other serious reasons should discuss their options with me.

Sexual Misconduct and Domestic Violence Policy

This policy specifically addresses sexual misconduct which includes dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The policy establishes procedures for responding to Title IX-related allegations of sexual misconduct. Complaints can be reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). You may contact OIE by phone at 901.678.2713 or by email at oie@memphis.edu. Complaints can be submitted online at [File a Complaint](https://www.memphis.edu/oie/complaint.php). OIE's office is located at 156 Administration Building.

Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy

University policy prohibiting discrimination and harassment based on protected characteristics and classes. Complaints of discrimination and harassment can be reported to the Office for Institutional Equity (OIE). You may contact OIE by phone at 901.678.2713 or by email at oie@memphis.edu. The full text of the policy can be found at [GE2030 - Non-Discrimination and Antiharassment](https://memphis.policytech.com/dotNet/documents/?docid=430&public=true).

Technology Requirements

The following is a list of the minimum requirements to use our learning management system. Some courses will have more advanced requirements.

You will need your own headsets or earbuds (hardwired) for use in the lab.

Access to a reliable, high-speed Internet connection (DSL or Cable).

Test your device to ensure it is compatible with our LMS (Learning Management System) using the[System Check Wizard.](file:///C%3A%5Cd2l%5CsystemCheck)

Open PDF files using the free downloadable PDF software.

Access Flash-based content with [Adobe Flash Player](https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/) (free).

Use Microsoft Office for document creation (available for students via <http://umapps.memphis.edu/>)

**Play media content with**[**Real Player**](https://www.real.com/)**(free),**[**QuickTime**](https://support.apple.com/kb/DL837?locale=en_US)**(free), or**[**Windows Media Player**](https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/18612/windows-media-player)**(free).**

Syllabus Changes

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

Technical Support

Call the Helpdesk: 901-678-8888

[Online Helpdesk](https://www.memphis.edu/umtech/service_desk/contact.php)