

Digital Design 108: Introduction to Sound Design

Meets: TBA
Email: n/a
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Course description:

This course is an introduction to audio production and sound design. Students will focus on the importance of listening as a means for developing an understanding of music while utilizing audio tools to build their own creative sound works from scratch. The course will cover concepts such as designing sound for music and multimedia with attention to physical acoustics, analog and digital recording tools including dynamic processors and effects units, techniques for recording and editing with various popular audio outboard gear and computer software packages, mixing, editing, etc.

Course objectives:

The course will provide students with:

- An introduction to the basic components of music (e.g. melody, rhythm, form, etc.)
- An introduction to basic digital & analog sound recording equipment
- An understanding of basic sound recording techniques
- An understanding of sound editing techniques
- An working knowledge of ProTools
- An introduction to Soundtrack, & Logic
- An introduction to MIDI
- An understanding of how sound is incorporated into other media

Credit Hours:

3 hours

Pre-requisites:

- DD101: Introduction to the Digital Toolbox

Required readings:

Modern Recording Techniques by David Miles Huber

Strongly suggested:

While this class has not been designated as 'web-enhanced,' it is strongly urged that students wishing to take full advantage of the class have:

- Some familiarity with the Internet;
- Access to the Internet from home or elsewhere
- An active email account.

Necessary Materials:

- Portable memory solution such as portable hard drive or flash drive with at least 500mb available for transporting work to and from class
- Blank CD-R(s) or DVD-R for final deliverable

Due dates:

Late assignments will not be accepted without a physician's or counselor's note.

Grading:

Projects	50
Reaction Paper (10)	20
Final Project & Presentation	20
Participation	10
Total	100

Grades:

90-100	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
0-50	F

There is no R grade in this course.

Introduction to Sound Design (SND) assignments:

This course will be an organic mix of lecture and practice with the professor working to explain the concepts, give examples, and also oversee how well students grasp the concepts discussed as they work on assigned projects. 10% of the grade will be based on engagement and consistent attendance, while the balance of the grade will be determined by students work on three projects over the course of fifteen weeks.

Assignment	Type	Date	Graded Points
Field Recording Project	Take-home / In class	P1	20
Mid-Term Exam	In Class	E1	15
Audio/video Project	Take-home / In class	P2	20
Final Project	Take-home / In class	P3	30
Total			85

Notes on the grading criteria:

Work will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Understanding, interpretation, communication of course concepts
- Critical thinking
- Design Process
- Research and Analysis of related issues
- Contribution to in-class discussion

The SND Projects:

What follows are brief descriptions of the USE assignments students will be doing over the course of the term. Detailed instructions will be provided in-class. Without a physician or counselor's note, late assignments will not be accepted and so will receive a grade of 0.

Field Recording:

Using one of the department's portable digital recorders explore the city's soundscape for elements that are unique (no garbage truck or subway sounds please) and expressive of the urban experience.

Final time: 90 seconds

Due at the beginning of class 5 on CD.

Audio/Video Project:

Design Soundtrack for provided video footage with a goal of inspiring specific emotional response.

Due at the beginning of class 11 As QuickTime file on CD-Rom.

Final Project:

Must be defined by student and presented with an artist statement at the beginning of class 12 for acceptance by teacher.

Due at the beginning of class 15 on CD or CD-Rom.

Participation:

A student's participation grade is based primarily on their attendance and participation in class. Every student begins the term with 10 participation points. Attendance is mandatory for every single scheduled class. For each class missed, 3 participation points will be deducted. Tardy students will have 2 participation points deducted. More than three absences will amount to a failure, as a student may not earn less than 0 participation points.

Academic policies (from Catalogue):

Hostos Community College believes that developing student's abilities to think through issues and problems by themselves is central to the educational process. Since the Hostos College degree signifies that the student knows the material s/he has studied, and the practice of academic dishonesty results in grades or scores that do not reflect how much or how well the student has learned, understood, or mastered the material, the College will investigate any form of academic dishonesty brought to its attention. If the charge of academic dishonesty is proved, the College will impose sanctions. The three most common forms of academic dishonesty are cheating, plagiarism, and bribery.

Cheating (from Catalogue):

In the collegiate setting, cheating is defined as the purposeful misrepresentation of another's work as one's own. Faculty and students alike are responsible for upholding the integrity of this institution by not participating either directly or indirectly in act of cheating and by discouraging others from doing so.

Plagiarism (from Catalogue):

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which occurs when persons, even if unintentionally, fail to acknowledge appropriately the sources for the ideas, language, concepts, inventions, etc. referred to in their own work. Thus, any attempt to claim another's intellectual or artistic work as one's own constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Bribery (from Catalogue):

In the collegiate setting, bribery involves the offering, promising, or giving of items of value, such as money or gifts, to a person in a position of authority, such as a teacher, administrator, or staff member, so as to influence his/her judgment or conduct in favor of the student. The offering of sexual favors in exchange for a grade, test score, or other academic favor, shall be considered attempted bribery. The matter of sexual favors, either requested or offered, in exchange for a grade, test score or other academic favor, shall also be handled as per the Sexual Harassment procedures of the College.

College attendance policy (from Catalogue):

Students are expected to attend all class meetings in the courses for which they are registered. Classes begin at the times indicated in the official schedule of classes. Arrival in class after the scheduled starting time constitutes lateness.

The maximum number of absences is limited to 15% of the number of scheduled class hours per semester and a student absent more than the indicated 15% is deemed excessively absent. Attendance is monitored from the first official day of classes. In the case of excessive absences or lateness, the instructor has the right to lower the grade, assign a failing grade, or assign additional written work or readings.

Absences due to late registration, change of program, or extenuating circumstances will be considered on an individual basis by the instructor. Each department and program may specify in writing a different attendance policy. Instructors are required to keep an official record of student attendance and inform each class of the College's or department attendance policy.

NOTE:

- Any work missed during any period of absence must be made up by the student.
- To meet financial aid criteria, a student must attend class at least once in the first three weeks and once in either the fourth or fifth week of class.

Course schedule:

Readings must be completed for each class. Not all assigned texts will be discussed in class or covered in the class lectures.

CLASS	SND Project Due	ROOM	TOPIC	READ FOR TODAY
1		TBA	Discussion: Class Introduction Introduction to Sound, microphones, and recording concepts	No reading
2		TBA	Discussion: Microphone Comparison & Placement Concepts of Copyright & Plagiarism	Huber Chapter 4 - Microphone Design & Application
3		TBA	Discussion: Introduction to Project 1, Stereo recording Digital audio tape recorders, and the soundboard	Huber Chapter 5 –The Analog Audio Tape Recorder
4		TBA	Discussion: Soundboard continued Sound Room basics Introduction to Pro Tools Creating Audio for CD	Huber Chapter 11 – The Audio Production Console
5	P1	TBA	Discussion: Critiques Editing in Pro Tools	No reading
6		TBA	Discussion: Signal Processing Editing Field Assignments	Huber Chapter 12 – Signal Processors
7	E1	TBA	Discussion: Mid-Term Exam	
8		TBA	Discussion: Exam Revisited Historical Overview	
9		TBA	Discussion: MIDI Syncing Introduce Audio/Video Project	Huber Chapter 7 – “MIDI & Electronic Music Technology”
10		TBA	Discussion: Multimedia Pro Tools & Video Foley Soundtrack	Huber Chapter 8 – Multimedia & The Web

11	RP2	TBA	Discussion: Audio/Video Project Critiques Introduce Final Project Mixing	
12		TBA	Discussion: Confirm Final Project Concepts Mixing & Mastering	No reading
13		TBA	Discussion: Final Project Process Listening Session Final Project Help	No reading
14		TBA	Discussion: Soundtrack & Logic Final Project Help	No reading
15	P3	TBA	Final Project Presentations & Critiques	No reading

COURSE ID PASSWORD	- -
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