

Tompkins Cortland Community College
Master Course Syllabus

Course Discipline and Number: COMM 227

Year: 2023-2024

Course Title: Audio Production II

Credit Hours: 3

I. Course Description:

This course covers the fundamentals and practical applications of a digital audio system, as well as methods for functioning in an integrated MIDI/digital audio workstation (DAW)/analog studio environment. This includes techniques for the analysis and study of audio signals and systems; decibels in audio and acoustical applications; systems analysis of contemporary recording and synthesis technology. Course topics include system setup and interconnections; MIDI interface and synchronization; aspects of digital recording consoles/mixers, I/O, sample rate, and bit depth; and basics of a DAW, such as the elements of hard-disk recording, track and file management, digital audio, and sequencing strategies. Assignment-based lab time required. Prerequisites: COMM 127; prior completion of, or concurrent enrollment in, RDNG 116 if required by placement. 3 Cr. (2 Lec., 2 Lab) Spring semester.

II. Additional Course Information:

1. This course is required in the Broadcast Production – Radio Concentration AAS degree program.
2. This course is designed for students in the audio and visual arts, and for journalists to learn advanced audio production skills.
3. This course may be of interest to New Media students and those interested in music production even if not enrolled in a program.
4. This course consists of at least 200 minutes class time each week for the fifteen-week semester.
5. Over-the-ear headphones (not earbuds), ¼ inch headphone adapter, USB flash drive, or external hard drive required.

III. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Consider, assess, and correctly apply professional techniques related to audio and video equipment, hardware, and software programs required for pre-production, production, and post-production processes to create video or audio works of their own.
2. Describe a wide variety of cinematic and musical forms of expression.
3. Discuss media history and the collaborative process in creative works.
4. Create works for a professional portfolio using analytical, problem-solving, aesthetic, critical thinking, and creative means suitable for transfer to a four-year institution or an entry-level broadcast facility.

IV. Tompkins Cortland General Education Goals & SUNY Competencies

☒ **Critical thinking**

Media projects often address social issues, and/or can cause social unrest. Students will discuss the role music and podcasts have in society. They will be expected to participate in critical analysis discussions in the course room.

☒ **Social/Global Awareness**

Students are encouraged to show the diversity represented in the college community and the surrounding area. They are also encouraged to explore personal growth and re-think stereotyping through audio presentations produced around the world.

☒ Information Management

Students will be working with computers using basic and more advanced research to locate, evaluate and synthesize information from a variety of sources.

V. Essential Topics/Themes

1. <u>Microphones</u> : Principles, Characteristics, Response, Types, Wireless, Accessories, Care
2. <u>Microphone Techniques</u> : Speaking, Music, Stereo, Instruments, Surround Sound
3. <u>Synchronization & Transfers</u> : Time codes, Frame rates
4. <u>Editing</u> : Transitions, Guidelines, Organization, Speech, Dialogue, Music, Sound Effects
5. <u>Mixing</u> : Aesthetic Perspective, Mixing vs. Layering, Signal Processing, Dynamic Range, Mixing for Radio, Spatial Imaging for Picture, Spatial Imaging for Music, Recordkeeping & Cue Sheets, Metering
6. <u>Field</u> : Pre-production Preparation, Acoustics in the Field, Recording Music Outside the Studio, Stereo Recording Methods, Mic Techniques for the Field, Location Recording for the Screen, Capturing Sound Effects
7. <u>The Art & Technology of Mixing</u> : Overdubbing, Mixdown, the "Mixing Surface", DAW mixer/controller Technology, Signal Processing, Dynamic Range, Time-based Effects, Noise Reduction, Monitoring, Surround Sound, Mastering, Product Manufacturing
8. <u>Influences of Sound on Meaning</u> : Characteristics of Sound, Nonverbal Speech, Sound Effects, Music

VI. Methods of Assessment/Evaluation

Method	% Course Grade
1. Quizzes	10-20%
2. Final exam	10%
3. Labs	5%
4. Class participation	10%

VII. Texts – None required.

VIII. Bibliography of Supplemental Materials

1. Huber, David Miles, and Robert E. Runstein. <i>Modern Recording Techniques</i> . Boston: Focal/Elsevier, 2005. Print.
2. Lubin, Tom. <i>Getting Great Sounds: The Microphone Book</i> . Boston, MA: Course Technology PTR, 2010. Print.
3. McDaniel, Drew, O., Rick, C. Shriver. and Kenneth R. Collins. <i>Fundamentals of Audio Production</i> , Boston, Allyn & Bacon, 2008, Print.
4. Owens, Jim. <i>Digital Production Handbook</i> , 6 th edition, United Kingdom, Taylor & Francis. © 2017.
5. Rayburn, Ray A., and John Eargle. <i>Eargle's Microphone Book: From Mono to Stereo to Surround: A Guide to Microphone Design and Application</i> . Amsterdam: Elsevier. 2012. Print.
6. Rumsey, Francis, and Tim McCormick. <i>Sound and Recording: Applications and Theory</i> . N.p.: n.p., n.d.
7. Shepherd, Ashley. <i>Pro Tools: For Video, Film, and Multimedia</i> . Boston, Muska & Lipman. 2008. Print.

Editions listed are current as of date of syllabus. More recent editions may be used.

IX. Other Learning Resources

Audiovisual
Sound effects library provided by broadcast production program
Electronic
None specified
Other
None specified

Attendance Policy: *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

Services for Students with Disabilities: *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

Academic Integrity: *Every student at Tompkins Cortland Community College is expected to act in an academically honest fashion in all aspects of his or her academic work: in writing papers and reports, in taking examinations, in performing laboratory experiments and reporting the results, in clinical and cooperative learning experiences, and in attending to paperwork such as registration forms.*

Any written work submitted by a student must be his or her own. If the student uses the words or ideas of someone else, he or she must cite the source by such means as a footnote. Our guiding principle is that any honest evaluation of a student's performance must be based on that student's work. Any action taken by a student that would result in misrepresentation of someone else's work or actions as the student's own — such as cheating on a test, submitting for credit a paper written by another person, or forging an advisor's signature — is intellectually dishonest and deserving of censure.

Several degree programs offer student learning opportunities (such as internships, field work, and clinical experiences) outside the standard classroom setting. As part of the learning process, students must understand and engage in conduct that adheres to principles guiding employment within the professional workplace. These behaviors include, but are not limited to, academic integrity, accountability, reliability, respect, use of appropriate language and dress, civility, professional ethics, honesty, and trustworthiness. Disciplinary action may be initiated for inappropriate conduct occurring while participating in any course-related project or event.