Audio Podcasting & Other Digital Media 113
Syllabus

Start Date: June 13th, 2016
End Date: July 11th, 2016
Final Project Due: July 18th, 2016

Instructor: Derek Katzer
Email: dkatzer@cdm.depaul.edu
Office Hours: Mon 10:00 am – 11:30 am
Online/by appointment

Table of Contents

- **Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the uses and practical applications of sound for multimedia. Students will study various uses of sound and music on the Internet from creative to professional websites. Using free or inexpensive hardware and software, students will learn to create and edit podcasts and attach audio files to programs and web pages such as Facebook, iTunes, Keynote, PowerPoint and other sites. The course will cover both Mac and PC applications so all students will be able to work on projects from their home computers. The course will also cover current legalities of digital media.

- **Learning Domain Description**

DC 113: Audio Podcasting & Other Media is included in the Liberal Studies program as a course with credit in the Arts and Literature domain. Courses in the Arts and Literature domain ask students to extend their knowledge and experience of the arts by developing their critical and reflective abilities. In these courses, students interpret and analyze particular creative works, investigate the relations of form and meaning and through critical and/or creative activity to come to experience art with greater openness, insight, and enjoyment. These courses focus on works of literature, art, theatre, or music as such, though the process of analysis may also include social and cultural issues. Students who take course in this domain choose three courses from such choices as literature, the visual arts, media arts, music, and theater. No more than two courses can be chosen from one department or program.

Learning Outcomes:

In **DC 113**, students will:

1. Listen to a variety of podcasts and analyze them in terms of quality, style, format, and genre.
2. Operate a USB microphone and utilize a digital audio workstation.
3. Investigate current trends in Digital Rights Management, P2P Networking, Internet Privacy/Regulation, Copyright, and Intellectual Property Rights.
4. Write, record, and edit several original podcasts that demonstrate efficient storytelling and technical expertise.
5. Learn the role of audio and podcasts in social media, presentations, and online feeds.

How Learning Outcomes Will Be Met

1. Papers 1-2 focus upon the analysis of a variety of podcasts in order to understand what makes the podcasts work in terms of: Content, Style, format, and genre. This will help improve the quality of the podcast that is created within the class.

2. Projects 1-4 will be staged with varying length to incorporate the techniques required for creating a professional quality podcast. This includes covering the process of: Editing dialog, balancing the mix, utilizing plugins (EQ, Compression, Noise Removal), and the practicality of microphone placement for recording. Through the continued refinement of their podcast the student will gain competency in the art of storytelling and working with a Digital Audio Workstation.

3. Paper 5 is a research paper that is assigned with the topic of trends in digital media. This topic is broad in order to urge an understanding of the current issues with Intellectual property, piracy, copyright, and the status of the Internet.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various podcasts in terms of its technical and storytelling aspects.
2. Record clean, professional-sounding dialogue at home using a USB microphone.
3. Edit, mix, and export professional, Internet-ready original podcasts.
4. Successfully navigate the basic functions of recording and editing software.
5. Upload and create an original podcast feed using podcast aggregators.
6. Have a basic understanding of the mechanics behind how sound works, and what affect that has upon recording dialog for podcasts.

- **Changes to Syllabus**

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L, and sent via email.

- **Writing Expectations**

The papers will adhere to MLA format for writing style. The research paper (Paper 5) will require proper citation; grammar and syntax will be graded accordingly.

- **How Writing Expectations Will Be Met**

    1. Papers 1 is a response paper. They are required for the student to begin to think critically about podcasts. Through writing about the podcasts the student will learn to understand how they work, and use that analysis to improve their won recordings.

    2. Papers 3-4 are podcast plans. These plans will prep the first and final podcast by the students writing out a comprehensive plan of what their podcasts will encompass.

    3. Paper 3 is the research paper for the class. This paper requires MLA citation and is put in place for the student to understand the issues surrounding: Intellectual Property, Copyright, Digital Rights Management, and the status of the Internet. This will help foster an understanding of the complexities of podcasting, digital media, and the impact legislation may have upon Fair Use Copyright protection

- **Equipment**

USB microphone or microphone with audio interface, personal computer, Audacity or any other audio editing program you wish to work on such as Garageband.

- **Text Books**

No textbooks for this class.

- **Grading**

Papers: 24% of your total grade (Papers #1,2,4, and 6 are worth 3% each, and Papers #3 and 5 are worth 6% each).

Podcasts: 48% of your total grade (Project #1 is worth 4%, Projects #2-5 are worth 6% each, and Project #6 the Final Project is worth 20%).

Participation in Discussion Forum: 27% of your total grade (3% per week)
Discussion Forum Rubrick (A weekly grade will be given):
100% = 1 posting and 2 replies to other posters per week
85% = 1 posting and 1 replies to other posters per week
75% = 1 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week
65% = 0 posting and 1 reply to other posters per week
0% = 0 posting and 0 replies to other posters per week

Late work is not accepted. In case of illness, please let me know

- **Curriculum** (The curriculum may be subject to change during the course)

  o **Week 1 - 6/13/16**

  Overview of syllabus, discussion forum and class expectations. Note: Syllabus is subject to change.

  What's a podcast? How does sound (music, dialogue, sound effects) inform these narratives? What can sound communicate?

  Audio basics. What is sound? What is a microphone? USB mics. How is sound used creatively?

  Audacity Basics 1 / Recording Demo

  Homework due - 6/20/16:
  Download Audacity (You can use Gargeband or other software if you have it and are comfortable with it) and iTunes.

  Audacity (Windows 2.1.2 Mac 2.1.2 [Intel], Mac 2.1.2 [PPC]:
  http://www.audacityteam.org/download/
  Audacity Plugins (LADSPA Plug-Ins [Mac and PC hyperlinks on this page]):
  http://www.audacityteam.org/download/mac/
  http://www.audacityteam.org/download/windows/
  LAME MP3 encoder (Mac and PC hyperlinks on this page):
  http://manual.audacityteam.org/o/man/faq_installation_and_plug_ins.html#lame

  Listen to the following podcasts (Available via the iTunes store):

  Serial: **S01 – Episode 1**
  Radio Lab: **The Buried Bodies Case**
  Reply All: **Baby King**
  We're Alive - A "Zombie" Story of Survival – **Episode 1: It Begins**
  Lore: **Episode 9 – The Castle**
  Imaginary worlds: **Being Batman (For Now)**
  Welcome to Nighvale: **Pilot**

  Paper #1 (500 Word minimum) What are your initial thoughts after listening to these podcasts? Which ones did you like and which ones did you dislike?

  Reading: Audacity Tutorial 1. Basics | Why do Podcasts suck?

  Discussion Board: Who are you and why are you taking the class?

- o **Week 2 – 06/20/16**

  Tutorials: Audacity Basics 2/3

  Basics acoustics to achieve optimal recording/listening conditions.

  Planning/creating a podcast: What are you communicating? What response are you trying to elect?

  Homework due 06/27/16

  Project# 1 (Record and edit one minute of dialogue. You are the talent) MP3 Format 256 kbp/s minimum.

  Paper #2 (750 word minimum): Choose a podcast of your choice and listen to at least three episodes. Define its function, content, and use of creative expression, length, audio quality and audience. Does it need improvement? How and Why? Does it serve the audience? How and Why? Does the narrative flow naturally? Is it too long or too short? Why did you choose this podcast?

  Paper #3 - Podcast #1 plan: What will be the content of the podcast? Who is your intended audience? How long will it be? How many people will participate? How long will it be? How many people will participate? How will you use music to set the tone of your podcast? What will your introductory music sound like? Will the credit music mirror the introductory music? **Note: This paper doesn't have to be in narrative format. Lists, bullet points, etc. are perfectly fine as long as it helps organize your thoughts.**

  Reading: Audacity Tutorials 2. Editing for Beginners, Audacity Tutorials 3.   Common Editing Mistakes, Effects for Beginners, and selecting and Aligning

  Discussion Site: Out of all the podcasts you have listened to, which one is your favorite and why? Which one is your least favorite and why?

o **Week 3 –06/27/16**

Podcast creation and delivery: What's RSS? Metadata? How do I upload my audio to a server? What's the happy medium of MP3 resolutions?

Planning/creating a podcast. What are you communicating? What response are you trying to elicit?

Homework due – 07/05/16

Reading: Podcast Consume revealed 2015

Project #2 (record and edit three-minute podcast. You may use music and/or sound effects but are not required to do so) MP3 format at at least 256 kbps

Discussion Site: Post the topic that you chose for Paper #4 and let us know why you chose that topic. What is one interesting thing you learned while research this paper?

o **Week 4 - 07/05/16**

Acquiring royalty Free Music

Editing Music Basics

Podcast Listen/Critique

Homework due – 07/11/16

Project #3 (3 Minute minimum with introductory music and credit music. You may use sound effects but are not required to do so)

Paper #4 - (750 word minimum) Current trends in Digital Media legalities. The topic is of your choosing. Examples: The current state of the RIAA and P2P networks, copyright fair use, domain name disputes, music law (there are many subcategories), podcasts and the FCC, the First Amendment and podcasts, Podcast guest waivers, etc. These are very broad topics and need to be narrowed down for an effective 750 word paper.

Discussion Boards: What are your thoughts on your classmates' podcasts?

Begin Thinking about your plan for the final podcast due 7/18/2016

o **Week 5 - 07/11/16**

Listen to and critique a selection of student podcasts.

Social Media and Sound

Homework due – 07/18/16

Project #4   - Final Podcast (5 minute minimum with introductory music and credit music. You may use sound effects but are not required to do so).

Discussion Boards: How has your perception of podcasts changed over the past five weeks?

College Policies

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students. They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.
To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296