DC 113 Audio in Podcasts and Other Media
Fall 2015 | Distance Learning
Online

Instructor: Travis Duffield
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 5:15PM - 5:45PM CDM 922 | 9:00PM - 10:00PM CDM 724
          Mondays 6:00PM - 7:30PM - Online - By Appointment

Course Description
This class 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.
PREREQUISITE(S): None

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
By the end of DC 113, students will be able to:
  • Assess the strengths and weaknesses of various podcasts in terms of its technical and storytelling aspects.
  • Record clean, professional-sounding dialogue at home using a USB microphone.
  • Edit, mix, and export professional, Internet-ready original podcasts.
  • Navigate the basic functions of recording and editing software.
  • Upload and create an original podcast feed using podcast aggregators.
  • Demonstrate a basic understanding of the mechanics behind how sound works,

Grading Scale

Podcasts 48% of your total grade
Podcast 1- 4%   Podcasts 2, 3, & 4 - 8%   Final Project - 20%

Papers 22% of your total grade
Papers 1, 2, 4, and 6 - 3%   Papers 3 & 5 - 5%

Video Of You With Your USB Mic 2% of your total grade

Participation in Discussion Forum 28% of your total grade (grade given each week)
  100% = 1 posting and 2 replies to other posters per week
  85% = 1 posting and 1 reply 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

A 93-100 Excellent work
A- 90-92
B+ 87-89 **B** 83-86 Above satisfactory work
B- 80-82
C+ 77-79 **C** 73-76 Satisfactory/good work

C- 70-72
D+ 67-69 **D** 63-66 Unsatisfactory work
D- 60-62
F 59-61 Substantially unsatisfactory work

Required Texts
None

Materials
USB Microphone or Microphone with Audio Interface - **REQUIRED - ORDER THIS ASAP!**
Headset microphones, iDevice microphones, or on-board computer microphones are not sufficient for this class

Audacity or Garageband (if you are planning to use another program, please let me know which one)

iTunes

Skype (if planning on utilizing online office hours)

Course Outline

Week 1 - 9/14

Topics Covered
Overview of Syllabus.

What is a Podcast? How does sound (music, dialogue, sound effects) inform these narratives? What can sound communicate?

Assignment - DUE 9/21
- Download Audacity (You can use Garageband or some other audio software if you have it and are comfortable using it)
- Download iTunes

Links
Audacity
http://audacity.sourceforge.net
Audacity Plugins (LADSPA Plugins) [Mac and PC links are here]
http://audacity.sourceforge.net/downloads/plugins
LAME MP3 Encoder (Mac and PC links are here)
http://audacity.sourceforge.net/help/faq?s+install&i=lame-mp3

- Listen to the following podcasts (All available on the iTunes Store)
    - Serial: **Episode 01 - Alibi**
    - Snap Judgement: **Desperate Measures**
    - The Alton Browncast: **Scott Witherow - Olive and Sinclair Chocolate Co.**
    - The Moth Podcast: **Bill Yosses & Christine Kalafus**

Paper #1 (500 word minimum)
What are your initial thoughts after listening to these podcasts? Break down each podcast into what it does well, and what you feel could be improved. Which ones are appealing to you? Which ones do not interest you and why?
Make sure your paper is structured, spell checked, double spaced in a legible font, and uses good grammar.

Discussion Board
Introduce yourself and let everyone know why you are taking this class.

Week 2 - 9/21

Topics Covered
Audio Basics. What is sound? What is a microphone? USB Microphones. How is sound used creatively?

Audacity Basics and Recording Demos
Assignment - DUE 9/28
Watch Lynda.com Audacity Tutorial: **Up and Running with Audacity - 1. Getting Started & 2. Recording** (link on D2L)

- Listen to the following podcasts (All available on the iTunes Store)
     - WTF with Marc Maron: **Episode 613: President Barack Obama**
     - Radiolab from WNYC: **Things**
     - Curious City: **A pair of Chicago ghost stories**

Paper #2 (500 word <u>minimum</u>)
What are your initial thoughts after listening to these podcasts? Break down each podcast into what it does well, and what you feel could be improved. Which ones are appealing to you? Which ones do not interest you and why?
Make sure your paper is structured, spell checked, double spaced in a legible font, and uses good grammar.

Discussion Board
Out of all of the podcasts you've listened to, which one is your favorite and why? Which one is your least favorite and why?

Week 3 - 9/28

Topics Covered
Audio Basics Part 2. What is Freeware? An overview of freeware audio software.

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

Assignment - DUE 10/5
Watch Lynda.com Audacity Tutorial: **Up and Running with Audacity - 3. Basic Editing and 4. Common Tasks** (This section covers installing the LAME MP3 encoder)

Create your first podcast! **Podcast #1** should be 24bit, 48KHz - MONO.

Record **one minute** of dialogue with yourself as the talent. The topic is anything you'd like it to be. The goal is to get familiar with recording in your program of choice, your USB Microphone, editing, and delivery.

Export your first podcast as an MP3 at 128kbps and upload to the **Podcast #1 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST1".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Upload a short <u>video</u> (can be iDevice or computer quality) of yourself with your microphone. <u>Make sure</u> to demonstrate proper positioning and proper protection from plosives (by using a windscreen). Please make sure to say (and show) the brand and model of your microphone in your video. Please upload this to the **Microphone Video** Dropbox folder on D2L. **PLEASE NAME YOUR VIDEO "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_MICVIDEO".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Paper #3 (750 word <u>minimum</u>)
Choose a podcast of your choice and listen to at least three episodes. **Each episode must be at least 15 minutes long**. Define its functions, content parameters, use of creative expression, length, audio quality and audience. Does it need improvement? How and why? Does it serve its audience? How and why? Does the narrative flow naturally? Is it long enough or is it too long? What makes this podcast unique among other podcasts in its genre (sports, comedy, news, storytelling, tech etc.) Why did you choose this podcast? **PLEASE MAKE SURE TO LIST THE THREE EPISODES YOU CHOOSE IN YOUR PAPER. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN A FULL LETTER GRADE DEDUCTION.**

Discussion Board
How was your experience in recording your one minute of dialogue?

Week 4 - 10/5

Topics Covered
Audio Basics & Audacity Part 3 / Recording Exercises. Acoustics for optimal recordings. What is a self portrait?

Assignment - **DUE 10/12**
Record **Podcast #2**. Podcast #2 should be 24bit, 48KHz - MONO. If you use music, it will likely be imported as stereo - this is fine. Make sure your dialogue is MONO.

Record and edit a three minute self-portrait. You are free to use music and/or sound effects (SFX) if you so choose.

Export your podcast as an MP3 at 128kbps and upload to the **Podcast #2 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST2".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Paper #4 (500 word <u>minimum</u>)
Podcast #3 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 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 does not have to be in a narrative format. It can be lists, bullet points, or whatever format will help you organize your thoughts when preparing to record your podcast.

Discussion Board
How was your experience in recording your self portrait?

Week 5 - 10/12

Topics Covered
Podcast creation and delivery. What is RSS? Metadata? How do I upload to my audio server? MP3 resolutions.

Assignment - DUE 10/19
Record **Podcast #3**. Podcast #3 should be 24bit, 48KHz - MONO. If you use music, it will likely be imported as stereo - this is fine. Make sure your dialogue is MONO.

Record at least 3 minutes with introductory music, credit music, and good fades. You are free to use music and/or sound effects (SFX) if you so choose. This podcast is free to follow a topic and format of your choosing.

Export your podcast as an MP3 at 128kbps and upload to the **Podcast #3 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST3".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Discussion Board
What did you learn from listening to 3 podcasts from one show last week and is there anything you will incorporate into your own remaining podcasts?

Week 6 - 10/19 - MIDTERM

Topics Covered
Listen to Self Portraits. Digital media rights and responsibilities. Royalty free music. Music editing basics.

Assignment - DUE 10/26
Paper #5 (750 word <u>minimum</u>)
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 Board
Post the topic that you chose for Paper #5 and let everyone know *why.* Share one interesting thing you learned from researching and writing the paper.

Week 7 - 10/26

Topics Covered
Social Media and sound. Listen to and critique selection of student podcasts.

Assignment - DUE 11/2
Record **Podcast #4**. Podcast #4 should be 24bit, 48KHz - MONO. If you use music, it will likely be imported as stereo - this is fine. Make sure your dialogue is MONO.

Record at least 3 minutes with introductory music, credit music, and good fades. You are free to use music and/or sound effects (SFX) if you so choose. Make sure you edit out extraneous noises - ums, clicks, pops, etc., and make sure you use good fades for your intro and outro music.

The topic of **Podcast #4** is up to you. This podcast **must** have someone else join your podcast though. The role of this other person is entirely up to you - it can be a co-host, interviewee, etc. Make sure you account for 2 people speaking if using one microphone (this is not an excuse for poor sound / bad placement - editing is your friend here if using a single microphone).

Export your podcast as an MP3 at 128kbps and upload to the **Podcast #4 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST4".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Discussion Board
How does the role of sound affect social media?

Week 8 - 11/2

Topics Covered
Working with Keynote and Powerpoint. How music and sound effects inform the visual narrative. How to most effectively use your voice to record a podcast.

Assignment - DUE 11/9
Paper #6 (500 word <u>minimum</u>)
Podcast #5 Plan (Final Project): What will be the content of the podcast? Who is your intended audience? 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 does not have to be in a narrative format. It can be lists, bullet points, or whatever format will help you organize your thoughts when preparing to record your podcast.

Discussion Board
Summarize your plans for your final podcast (topic, form, guests, etc.)

Week 9 - 11/9

Topics Covered
Listen to and critique selection of student podcasts.

Assignment - DUE 11/16

Record **Podcast #5**. This is your **Final Project.** Podcast #5 should be 5 minutes <u>minimum</u> with intro and credit music at proper levels with good fades. You may use sound effects if you so choose, but are not required to.

Podcast #5 is **DUE 11/23 - Finals Week (Week 11).** This project is worth 20% of your grade so please use the time effectively to create something great! Content and professional editing are key on this project. Along with content and editing, the following is required for your project:

- 24bit, 48KHz project setting
- Correct and complete Metadata on export (Track Title, Artist, Album, Genre)
- Mono or Stereo Track
- Proper microphone used
- 128kbps MP3 Delivery

Please upload to the **Podcast #5 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST5".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

Discussion Board
What are your thoughts on listening to everyone's podcasts?

Week 10 - 11/16

Topics Covered
Listen to and critique selected student podcasts (continued).

FINAL PROJECT

Record **Podcast #5**. This is your **Final Project.** Podcast #5 should be 5 minutes **minimum** with intro and credit music at proper levels with good fades. You may use sound effects if you so choose, but are not required to.

Podcast #5 is **DUE 11/23 - Finals Week (Week 11).** This project is worth 20% of your grade so please use the time effectively to create something great! Content and professional editing are key on this project. Along with content and editing, the following is required for your project:

- 24bit, 48KHz project setting
- Correct and complete Metadata on export (Track Title, Artist, Album, Genre)
- Mono or Stereo Track
- Proper microphone used
- 128kbps MP3 Delivery

Please upload to the **Podcast #5 Dropbox** on D2L. Your file MUST be an MP3 - No Audacity project files (or other audio program files) accepted. **PLEASE NAME YOUR PODCAST "LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME_PODCAST5".** Points will be deducted for not following this format.

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 on D2L and sent via email.

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

Late Papers/Projects
Late papers and projects are not accepted. If there is an emergency, proper documentation is required before the deadline.

Attendance
Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, may constitute failure for the course.