

Audio Production Workshop – Syllabus

Class meets: 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday, January 21, and Sunday January 22, 2006;
13 Pacific Hall

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Purpose of the course: This class provides a brief introduction to the principles, tools, and techniques of digital audio recording, editing and production. Through lectures, demonstrations, and hand-on experiences in the lab and the field, students will gain an understanding of the nature of sound, basic microphone usage, digital audio recording equipment and techniques, digital sound editing using *Audacity* software, writing, narration, and production techniques used in news and audio documentaries.

Class resources: Students are recommended to visit the following on line resources for more detailed information on course topics:

Audacity - web site for the popular open source audio editor, available for both Windows and Apple OS. The free download includes a manual and tutorials, available at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>.

Transom Tools – resource for audio documentary producers, providing information on equipment, recording techniques, interviewing and a host of other useful topics. The Transom.org home page connects to audio documentaries and commentary by novice and experienced producers. Available at <http://www.transom.org/tools>.

Did You Hear That? by Douglas Spotted Eagle, VASST Trainer/Sundance Media Group – article covering the fundamentals of microphone types and applications. Focused on sound for film, but applicable to any type of audio recording. Available at http://presentation.digitalmedianet.com/2003/04_apr/tutorials/did_you_hear_that.htm.

This American Life – weekly program featuring innovative and creative audio documentaries. Their training comic book, *Radio: The Illustrated Guide*, is well worth the \$5.00. Available at <http://www.thislife.org>

Workshop schedule

Saturday, January 21

9:00 AM to noon: Introductions
Sound in the environment – sound waves, acoustics, and listening

Experiments with sound
Microphones and mike techniques

Noon to 12:30 PM: Lunch break

12:30 to 2:30 PM: Project planning
Writing and narration
Interviewing
Digital recording – record to edit.

2:45 to 4:00 PM: Small groups – project planning
Collecting sound in the studio and the field.

Sunday, January 22

9:00 AM to noon: *Audacity* software training

- Setting preferences
- File types, and importing files
- File manipulation techniques
- Working with narration and interviews
- Working with natural sound and music
- Mixing
- Exporting files

Noon to 12:30 PM: Lunch Break

12:30 to 3:30 PM: Editing tutorial
Small group project editing

3:30 to 4:00 PM: Listening to final projects

For more information on the equipment we'll be using, check out these sites:

Marantz PMD 660 Flash recorder:

http://www.transom.org/tools/recording_interviewing/200503.pmd660.html

M-Audio MicroTrack 24/96 Flash recorder:

http://www.transom.org/tools/recording_interviewing/200512.maudio_microtrack.html

ElectroVoice 635A omnidirectional microphone:

<http://www.electrovoice.com/Electrovoice3/products.nsf/pages/635A>

<http://www.coutant.org/635a/index.html>

Sennheiser MD 46 cardioid microphone:

<http://www.sennheiserusa.com/newsite/productdetail.asp?transid=005172>