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JRNL 140A.01: Introduction to Radio / Audio Production

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Journalism JRNL 140a

Introduction to Radio/Audio Production

Autumn Semester 2014

Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:40-2:00pm

Don Anderson Hall Room 316

(Subject to Change)

Instructor

Professor Ray Ekness

UM Radio-Television Department, School of Journalism

Don Anderson Hall 402 (Office hours M & W 8:30-9:30am or by appointment)

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Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the basic concepts of audio as a communication medium. Students will receive practical experience and basic knowledge of audio production, including the principles of sound, announcing, scriptwriting, microphone technique, board operation, storytelling, program production, leadership and organization. Students are encouraged and expected to incorporate their own creative and aesthetic ideas with the parameters of various audio segments and programs. All program material produced for this class **must** be able to be aired on a FCC regulated radio station.

Course Objectives

- To think critically and creatively
- To critically evaluate work and appropriate audience
- To use appropriate tool and technology
- To learn about the process and techniques of producing, writing and telling stories, segments and programs from the context of today's audio industry.
- To learn and obtain "hands on" experience working with audio technology and software used in the audio industry.
- To produce several different audio stories, segments and programs.

Textbook

There is no textbook for this class. Exams will be based on material covered during lectures and labs.

Lectures, Labs & Studio Time

This course consists of lectures and labs. The lectures will be held in DAH 316. The hands-on lab sessions will be held in the student audio production studios in DAH 307-311.

Checkout (Also see attached sheet on checkout procedures and penalties)

- Students will also be required to complete productions outside of the scheduled class times. In order to do so, the studio facilities are available for "checkout." A schedule of available times is on the clipboard outside each studio door.
- You can sign-up to use one of the production studios for a **maximum of four half-hour sections (two hours) per day** and **maximum of six hours per week**. In class, we will go over the way to reserve the equipment and studios.
- Digital audio recording units are available for use. You will be assigned (as part of a team) an audio recorder by your instructor.
- Do not expect to always get the equipment at the exact time you need it. Always have a secondary plan. And always start early. You will be given more than enough time to finish an assignment. If you wait until the last minute, you may not get equipment or studio time.

- Be careful with all equipment you use either in the studio or in the field. Don't leave any equipment in your car or anyplace it could be stolen. Do not lose your temper and take it out on the equipment. Problems will happen, whether you're at the network level or in college. Everything breaks down eventually. Batteries quit and computers don't always work. Be patient and learn to solve problems on your own.
- **You are financially responsible for any lost, stolen or damaged equipment.**

Access and Security

- You will be able to access Don Anderson Hall anytime using your Griz Card swipe near the main entrance. **Each person entering MUST SWIPE THEIR OWN CARD.** Do not allow classmates, friends or anyone else to enter with your card.
- You will also be given a key code for access to DAH 307-311. You will have a punch code unique from everyone else's. **DO NOT SHARE THIS CODE.** If someone else enters under your code or swipe, **YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DAMAGE OR THEFT.**
- **We expect and need you to assist in building security. If you see anything suspicious contact a faculty member or CALL PUBLIC SAFETY!**
- Only Journalism/RTV students are allowed to use our labs. It's up to you to help us protect our equipment and facilities.
- For after hours access to Don Anderson Hall, complete and submit this form online: <http://jour.umn.edu/current-students/Building-access.php> by Friday, September 5th. Complete only one request form per semester – be sure to list all courses you are taking. Door codes to DAH 114 and the audio studios in DAH 307-311 will be assigned and provided to you via email. This request will also activate your Griz Card for the front door of DAH. Codes will remain active until the last day of the semester. You will not have 24/7 access to other areas of Don Anderson Hall. Any students who do not submit a form by Friday, September 5 will not have access. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Studio and Labs

All control rooms and studios must be cleaned and everything put away or thrown away at the end of each class or in-studio lab. Anything you bring into the classroom, you must take with you out of the studio. No food or drink is allowed in any audio suites. Please clean up your areas. Please log off computers when you are done working on a workstation.

Equipment Needed

- Data storage device (for backup)
- A headset with both 1/4" phone and 1/8" mini plug connectors (required)

Grading

You will receive a personal critique, a class-wide critique and a grading/critique sheet following every assignment. You will be graded on a variety of different criteria and receive a grade for your work:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>
Announcing/Pronunciation	100
Radio Announcing Break	100
Editing Assignment	100
Commercial Production	100
Radio Team #1	100
Radio Individual #1	100
Radio Team #2	100
Radio Individual #2	100
Radio Team #3	100
Radio Individual #3	100
Sound Story #1	100
Sound Story #2	200
Final Project-Sound Story #3	300
Exam #1	100
Exam #2	100
Attendance/Checkout	200
Total	2000

Final Grades (Plus/Minus grading in effect)

A = 1860-2000 (93-100%)
 A- = 1800-1859 (90-92%)
 B+ = 1760-1799 (88-89%)
 B = 1660-1759 (83-87%)
 B- = 1600-1659 (80-82%)
 C+ = 1560-1599 (78-79%)
 C = 1460-1559 (73-77%)
 C- = 1400-1459 (70-72%)
 D+ = 1360-1399 (68-69%)
 D = 1260-1359 (63-67%)
 D- = 1200-1259 (60-62%)
 F = 1199 and Below (Below 60)

Deadlines

Deadlines are very important in broadcasting. All assignments must be handed in on time. Penalties will be assessed for late work. **Ten percent of the total points will be deducted for each day your project is late.** No assignments will be accepted later than **ONE WEEK AFTER THE DEADLINE.**

Diversity Initiative

The School of Journalism has undertaken an initiative to create opportunities for students to tell stories of more varied and diverse groups of people. You will need to integrate one of these groups into one of your final two audio assignments. We will discuss the groups of people and some possible story ideas during the preparation of the assignments.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at http://life.umd.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. This is a building-block class. If you miss even one class, you are likely to miss something that could seriously hurt your performance on current and future assignments. One hundred points will be deducted for each class you miss. Excused absences must be documented by the instructor.

Same Work for Multiple Classes in J-School

You may not submit for this course any assignment that has previously or will be concurrently submitted for another class unless you receive prior approval from the professor for this course. To do so without permission will result in an "F" for the assignment and could result in an "F" for the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

This course is accessible to and usable by otherwise qualified students with disabilities. To request reasonable program modifications, please consult with the instructor. Disability Services for Students will assist the instructor and student in the accommodation process. For more information, visit the Disability Services website at www.umd.edu/dss/.

JRNL 140a Introduction to Radio/Audio
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<u>Monday, August 25th</u> Course Introduction, Syllabus and Tour	<u>Wednesday, August 27th</u> Introduction to Audio and Radio Announcing Assignment -Personal Story
<u>Monday, September 1st</u> NO CLASS-Labor Day Holiday	<u>Wednesday, September 3rd</u> How Stuff Works (Board, Recording on Adobe) Assignment -Record Personal Story
<u>Monday, September 8th</u> How Stuff Works (Editing on Adobe Audition) DUE -Personal Story Recording Assignment -News Reading	<u>Wednesday, September 10th</u> Personal Story/Listen DUE -News Reading/Listen
<u>Monday, September 15th</u> Examples-Using nat sound and descriptive writing Assignment -Classical Composers Announcing	<u>Wednesday, September 17th</u> DUE -Classical Composer Exercise/Listen What makes a Radio Break? Assignment -Announcing a Radio Break
<u>Monday, September 22nd</u> Exam #1 DUE -Announcing a Radio Break/Listen Assignment -Haunted House	<u>Wednesday, September 24th</u> Assignment -Radio Shows Job Descriptions and responsibilities Programming a Radio Station
<u>Monday, September 29th</u> Writing Radio Commercials DUE -Haunted House/Listen Assignment -Commercial Writing	<u>Wednesday, October 1st</u> DUE -Commercial Writing Commercial Presentations Assignment -Produce the Commercial
<u>Monday, October 6th</u> DUE -Produce the Commercial/Listen Final Prep for first radio show	<u>Wednesday, October 8th</u> KWWW On-the-Air
<u>Monday, October 13th</u> KYYY On-the-Air	<u>Wednesday, October 15th</u> KZZZ On-the-Air
<u>Monday, October 20th</u> Review Descriptive Writing in Radio Listen to Sound Story Examples Assignment -Sound Story #1 Production	<u>Wednesday, October 22nd</u> Listen to Music Profiles Examples Assignment -Sound Story #2
<u>Monday, October 27th</u> DUE -Sound Story #1/Listen Final Prep for next radio shows	<u>Wednesday, October 29th</u> Special Halloween Presentation
<u>Monday, November 3rd</u> KYYY On-the-Air	<u>Wednesday, November 5th</u> KZZZ On-the-Air
<u>Monday, November 10th</u> KWWW On-the-Air	<u>Wednesday, November 12th</u> Art of Radio Discussion/Examples
<u>Monday, November 17th</u> DUE -Sound Story #2/Listen Assignment -Final Project-Sound Story #3	<u>Wednesday, November 19th</u> Exam #2 Final Prep for next radio programs
<u>Monday, November 24th</u> KZZZ On-the-Air	<u>Wednesday, November 26th</u> NO CLASS-Thanksgiving Holiday Break
<u>Monday, December 1st</u> KWWW On-the-Air	<u>Wednesday, December 3rd</u> KYYY On-the-Air
<u>Finals Week—No Class Meeting</u> <u>Thursday, December 11th at 5:00pm</u> DUE -Final Projects-Sound Story #3	<i>HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR AND GREAT WINTER BREAK!</i>