
COM 162

Basic Radio Applications

Fall 2017

Lecture: Monday 9:00 – 10:50

Labs: Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:00 – 10:50

Instructor: Steve Suess

E-Mail: sssuess@ilstu.edu

Twitter: @ProfSuess

Phone: (815) 483-4043

Office: 007 Fell Hall

Office Hours: 7AM-9AM Mon-Fri

Materials Needed

- 10 CDs & Cases
- Sound Silencing Headphones

Plagiarism/Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and/or cheating will result in an immediate zero on the assignment, and could result in university discipline.

Electronic Devices in Class

Electronic devices are not allowed in lecture or lab. Your grade will be penalized if you violate this policy,

Absence

Absences may be excused with prior consent of the instructor. If you have an emergency, please let the instructor know and provide documentation.

Assessing Late Work

Late work is **never** acceptable without prior consent of the instructor. Any assignment less than 24 hours late will be graded with a 50% automatic deduction. Any assignment turned in more than 24 hours late will be a zero.

Special Needs

Any student needing to arrange a reasonable accommodation for a documented disability and/or medical/mental health condition should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services at 350 Fell Hall, (309) 438-5853, or visit the StudentAccess.IllinoisState.edu.

Overview/Catalog Description

Covers the basic theories of field and studio audio production. Students will become familiar with the use of field and studio audio equipment and will learn the basics of audio pre- and post-production techniques.

Students will learn the basics of audio production, audio scriptwriting, and how audio production works in conjunction with other areas of a radio station.

Students will also receive instruction on the basic principles of the radio industry, including careers in radio, industry-standard editing techniques, vocal performance, and other professional radio topics.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this class you will...

- Familiarize yourself with audio production theory.
- Demonstrate the ability to use the audio production lab.
- Demonstrate the ability to use audio equipment in the field.
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of audio post-production techniques.
- Gain a basic understanding of audio scriptwriting.
- Understand how audio production works in conjunction with other operations of a radio station.

Required Text

- Hausman, C., Messere, F., Benoit, P. & O'Donnell, L. (2007). *Modern radio production (9th edition)*. Wadsworth: Boston.
- Access to a radio – You *will* be listening to radio while you're in this class!

Assessment

Students will be evaluated periodically throughout the semester with the following assignments and tasks...

- **Exams** – Students will take both a written midterm and final exam. The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching, and short answer.
- **Lab Practical** – Students will take an oral final exam/lab practical demonstrating knowledge gained in the class.
- **Project 1: Lab Orientation** – Students will create a mock jock shift designed to introduce students to lab equipment and vocal performance.
- **Project 2: Editing** – Students will be introduced to basic linear editing techniques by editing down a large piece of audio.
- **Project 3: Commercial/PSA** – Students will use multitrack editing techniques to write and produce a dynamic commercial or PSA piece.
- **Project 3: Group Project** – In groups of 2-5, students will write and produce a longform audio project.
- **Group Presentation** – Students will visit a local radio station or station cluster and present their findings to the class.
- **Attendance/Participation** – Students will be graded on their ability to come to class prepared and ready to participate in discussion/activities.

Standards-Based Grading

There are no “points” in this course. Everything you do will be graded as either “Meets Expectations” or “Does Not Meet Expectations.” While this may sound intimidating, projects that do not meet expectations are able to be redone within a week of having the grade returned. Your final grade in this course will be determined by how many of this course’s assignments on which you have met expectations. A detailed explanation of how the final grade is determined can be found on the grading scale attached to this syllabus.

At this point, you might be thinking that standards-based grading is needlessly complicated. The justification for using this grading method is simple – It is designed to help you learn the skills taught in the course, instead of totaling just enough points to get a letter grade in the course. Because projects can be redone, the emphasis is on *learning* instead of *acquiring points*. As an instructor of the course – one that relies heavily on skills learned throughout the semester – I’m more interested in students learning than I am in points.

ReggieNet

Your grades will be available on ReggieNet as grading is completed. You will receive detailed feedback in-person. There will be no assignments on ReggieNet

Tentative Schedule

Week 1 Aug 19-24	Introduction to Lecture Introduction to Lab
Week 2 Aug 26-30	Chapter 1 Lab Procedures
Week 3 Sept 2-6	Labor Day – No Lecture Intro to Project 1
Week 4 Sept 9-13	Chapters 2, 3, and 8 Studio Work for Project 1
Week 5 Sept 16-20	Chapters 4, 6, and 9 Project 1 Due Intro Project 2
Week 6 Sept 23-27	Chapters 7, 10, and 12 Studio Work for Project 2
Week 7 Sept 30 - Oct 4	Radio Careers Project 2 Due, Listening Day
Week 8 Oct 7-11	Midterm Intro Project 3
Week 9 Oct 14-18	Chapter 11 and 16 Editing Techs, Scripts Due
Week 10 Oct 21-25	Chapter 5, Speakers Studio Work on Project 3
Week 11 Oct 28 – Nov 1	Chapters 13 and 14 Project 3 Due, Radio Visits
Week 12 Nov 4-8	Microphones, Performance Intro Final Project
Week 13 Nov 11-15	Chapter 15, Radio Elements Radio Visits – No Lab
Week 14 Nov 18-22	Radio Visit Presentations
Week 15 Nov 25-29	FALL BREAK
Week 16 Dec 2-6	Study Guide, Evaluations, Lab Practical, Final Project Due

COM 162 STANDARDS-BASED GRADING STRUCTURE

	Projects	Exams	Lab Practical	Radio Visit	Participation/Attendance
A	Met Expectations on 4/4 Projects	Met Expectations on 2/2 Written Exams	Met Expectations on Lab Practical	Met Expectations on Radio Visit and Presentation	> 80% Attentive Participation and Attendance
B	Met Expectations on 3/4 Projects	Met Expectations on 1/2 Written Exams	Met Expectations on Lab Practical	Met Expectations on Radio Visit and Presentation	> 70% Attentive Participation and Attendance
C	Met Expectations on 2/4 Projects	Met Expectations on 1/2 Written Exams	No Requirement	Met Expectations on Radio Visit and Presentation	> 50% Attentive Participation and Attendance
D	Met Expectations on 2/4 Projects	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement	> 25% Attentive Participation and Attendance
F	Anything Less Than Met Expectations on 2/4 Projects	No Requirement	No Requirement	No Requirement	Anything < 25% Attentive Participation and Attendance