



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

### COURSE INFORMATION

**SEMESTER & YEAR:** Spring 2022 - Jan 18, 2022 - May 05, 2022

**COURSE NAME & CRN:** *(Although not officially a hybrid course, I will be incorporating Blackboard into the course as well as using Remind.com to communicate with the class)*  
Audio in Media COMM 2343 – Mon/Wed WORR 205 12:00 – 13:20

### **TEXTBOOK(s):**

**Required:**

- **Modern Radio & Audio Production; 10<sup>th</sup> Edition**

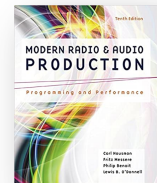
By Hausman, Messere, Benoit, and O'Donnell.

*Please do not get a text that is older than the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition, as it is very different from the previous issues.*

**MATERIALS:** You will need the following:

- Pair of over the ear headphones (NOT EAR BUDS)
- External audio recorder (and the necessary media to record onto)
- Microphone (and necessary cables to connect to the recorder)
- USB\* (4GB or larger to submit your final portfolio at the end of the semester)

*\*This USB will NOT be returned*



### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**NAME:** Steve Lama

**OFFICE LOCATION & HOURS:** BY APPOINTMENT

**PHONE:** (915) 747-5129 (Communication office and leave me a message)

**EMAIL:** slama@utep.edu (ONLY!)

**WEBPAGE:** stevelama.com

### COURSE CONTENT/DESCRIPTION:

COMM 2343 – Audio in Media

The history, theory, and production of audio in communication. There will be an emphasis on the theory of sound, critical listening, using a digital audio workstation (DAW).

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES:

- This course will provide you with an overview of how audio is used in the media, a technical foundation in audio and basic skills in audio production.
- At the end of the course, you will be able to produce audio projects ranging from basic radio commercials to advanced documentaries, as well as gaining an understanding of how audio works in television, film, and online media.

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

I begin each class/semester using a Teacher-centered teaching approach and transition into a more Student-centered teaching approach, shifting the focus of activity from the teacher to the learners. By offering "open lab" hours beginning mid-semester, this allows students to use class time to work on assignments and provides opportunities for me to offer more individualized or small group one-on-one critiques and evaluations. I can then focus on specific questions and not tie up class time covering questions that may not apply to all students; for example I can repeat basic concepts and ideas for those who need that while allowing me to move into more complex topics for those who are already at a more intermediate or advanced level with the course subject matter. This time also allows me to give specific feedback on the progress of the assignments before they are due, because at the end of the semester, it's too late to correct or fix any problems that may have arisen.

### **AUDIO PRODUCTION ASSIGNMENTS\***: Specific details will be given later

\*Any assignment you submit may be used in this class or any future class for critique, discussion, or as an example to help discuss and clarify assignment requirements! Subject to change.

1. Book on Tape (or Radio Drama, Play) production (30 min)
2. Radio Bumper x2 (:05 to :15 seconds each)
3. Commercial or PSA (:30 or :60 seconds)
4. Interview (3 to 15 min)
5. News Package (3 to 15 min)
6. Radio program (30 min or 60 min)
7. Video Foley (3 to 15 min)

### **ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED USING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- Does the assignment fit or address the requirements?
- Technical elements (sound, volume levels, clarity, time requirements, etc.)
- Saved and labeled correctly
- On-time

### **FINAL ASSIGNMENTS DUE DATE:**

ALL FINAL projects are due the last week of the semester; this LAST week of the semester will also be used to complete the Lab Practicum for the class.

### **DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.

Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

**DUE DATE: ALL FINAL projects due the last week of the semester on CD/DVD or USB.**

### **Grading Scale:**

- 45% Assignments
- 15% Exams/Tests (they are all the same)
- 20% Lab practicum/exercise
- 20% Attendance/Discussion

Final grades will follow the below scale:

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% – 79% = C

60% – 69% = D

50% – 59% = F

*I = Incomplete option available subject to individual terms, case by case situation.*

### **Assignments: (45%)**

These are graded as pass (80) or fail (0), provided they meet the assignment descriptions & course expectations. Weight distribution will be evenly distributed over the number of assignments assigned to calculate an assignment average. Any assignment you submit may be viewed in this class for group critique or used as an example in any future classes.

### **Grading Criteria for Assignments**

- Does the project fit or address the assignment?
- Technical elements/accuracy
- Basic design components
- Saved and labeled correctly
- On-time

ALL Final projects will need to be submitted on USB by the below due dates/times. If you submit your projects on any other form of media, your assignment grade will be reduced by %10. You will need to make sure that all files are playable MP3's or you will not receive credit for that particular assignment. You may include any and all files used to complete the final projects but the FINAL version MUST be an MP3...no exceptions!

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

**By submitting you assignments (final projects or progress assignments) you understand and are giving your consent/permission that they may be “shared” (viewed/listened to/etc.) in a classroom environment for evaluation or critique during the current or future semesters.**

### **Exams/Quizzes/Tests: (15%)**

Exams/Quizzes/Tests will cover class lecture and the textbook. They may be a mix of multiple choice, True/False, fill in the blank, and on occasion short answer

### **Lab practicum exercise assignment: (20%)**

This practicum will test your ability to apply what you have learned this semester through an exercise assignment that will be given at the end of the semester. Unlike the assignments where you basically have a week, you will have a limited time frame of only a couple hours to complete your task to simulate a real-life "crunch" deadline scenario.

### **Attendance/Discussions: (20%)**

Class participation is primarily based on your attendance and discussions/reply posts.

- Initial post due Wednesday 11:59 p.m.
- Follow-up posts will then be open until Saturday 11:59 p.m.
- You must post your initial post to be allowed to contribute to other discussions
- You must post to a minimum of THREE DIFFERENT discussions

### **Drop policy:**

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DROP THE CLASS BY THE DROP DATE in order to receive a "W" in the course. If a student's name remains on the final roster, a letter grade must be assigned based on the work received by the instructor for the semester. I will NOT drop you AFTER the drop date; the only exception will require both department chair and dean to approve your request.

## **Rules, Class Policy, Etc.**

### **Attendance:**

Will be determined based on your posting and discussion contributions.

### **Late Work:**

Late work will be accepted but penalized 10% (which basically equates to a full letter grade) if turned in within 24 hours after the due date/time. If turned in after 24 hours and before 48 hours, 15% will be deducted from that assignment grade. If turned in more than 48 hours, a maximum grade point equal to a D will be posted.

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## **UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022**

### **Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821**

NO ASSIGNMENTS will be accepted after four (4) days past the due date and a grade of "0" will be posted for that assignment.

#### **Plagiarism:**

All students are expected to turn in original work. Writing assignments are part of the final grade criteria. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating are unprofessional and will not be tolerated. Evidence of such activity will be turned over to administration for review to appropriate office(s).

#### **Academic Misconduct:**

The University of Texas El Paso prides itself on its standards of academic excellence and students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, submitting work for credit that is attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act that gives or attempts to give unfair advantage.

#### **ADA and CASS Policy:**

If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu). Or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass). CASS' Staff are the only individuals who can validate and if need be, authorize accommodations for students with disabilities.

As per Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP needs to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Center for Accommodations and Support Services. You may call 915-747-5148 for general information about the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Center for Accommodations and Support Services Office (CASS) at The University of Texas at El Paso.

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

### COVID-19 PRECAUTION STATEMENT:

Please stay home if you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 or are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can work on appropriate accommodations. If you have tested positive for COVID-19, you are encouraged to report your results to [covidaction@utep.edu](mailto:covidaction@utep.edu), so that the Dean of Students Office can provide you with support and help with communication with your professors. The Student Health Center is equipped to provide COVID-19 testing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that people in areas of substantial or high COVID-19 transmission wear face masks when indoors in groups of people. The best way that Miners can take care of Miners is to get the vaccine. If you still need the vaccine, it is widely available in the El Paso area, and will be available at no charge on campus during the first week of classes. For more information about the current rates, testing, and vaccinations, please visit [epstrong.org](http://epstrong.org).

### COURSE CALENDAR\*

\*The following schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class.

#### PROPOSED SPRING 2022 CLASS SCHEDULE

##### Week 1

##### Introduction

Ch. 1: Production in Modern Radio (The Physics of Sound)

Lab assignment-View videos:

##### Week 2

Ch. 2: Sound and Microphones

Lab assignment-View videos:

##### Week 3

Extra Day

Lab Assignment: View Video:

##### Week 4

Ch. 3: The Console

Ch. 4: Recording and Playback Technology.

Lab assignment: View videos:

##### Week 5

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama



## UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2022 Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20821

Ch. 5: Editing  
Lab Assignment (Ear Training):

Week 6  
Ch. 12: Commercial Production  
Lab Assignment view videos:

Week 7  
Mixing  
Lab Assignment: View Videos

Week 8  
Ch. 13: News Production  
Ch. 15: Advanced Production: Multichannel, Music, and Special Effects;

Week 9  
SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 10

Week 11  
Ch. 8: Computer-Driven Technology & Possible tour of KTEP

Week 12  
Ch. 16: Production, Programming, and the Modern Format

Week 13  
Ch. 20: Ethics and the Modern Communication Professional

Week 14

Week 15  
Work on Final

Week 16  
Work on Final

Week 17  
**FINALS WEEK: Students are expected to attend regularly scheduled Final Examinations as per University rules. Final Exam – TBD**

**DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!**

**The use of ANY RECORDING device (Audio or Video) is strictly prohibited.**

THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE NECESSARY CHANGES IN THE SCHEDULE/CALENDAR/ASSIGNMENTS DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CLASS.  
Any class material changes will be announced in class as well as posted on my web site.

© 2022 Steve Lama