



UTEP Syllabus – Spring 2025

Audio In Media – COMM 2343 – CRN 20470 v1

COURSE INFORMATION

SEMESTER & YEAR: Spring 2025 – Jan. 21, 2025 – May 8, 2025

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 – CRN 20470

Tues/Thurs – 13:30 – 14:50 (1:30 – 2:50 PM) – COBA 330 (may be moved to LART 405M)

TEXTBOOK(s):

Required:

- **Understanding Audio: Getting the most out of your project or professional recording studio 2nd ed.**

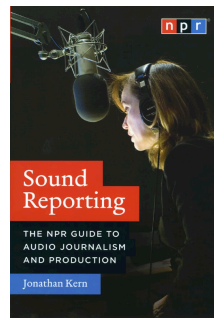
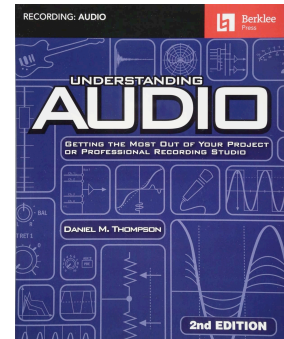
By Daniel M. Thompson

ISBN: 978-1-4950-2875-5

- **Sound Reporting: The NPR Guide to Audio Journalism and Production.**

By Jonathan Kern

ISBN: 978-0226431789



Optional:

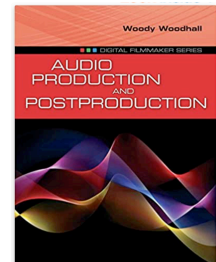
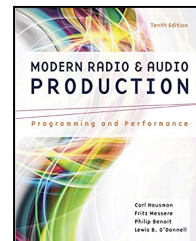
- **Modern Radio & Audio Production; 10th Edition**

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

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

- **Audio Production and Postproduction; 1st Edition**

By Woody Woodhall



MATERIALS: You will need the following:

I will add a section to Bb with more specifics on equipment recommendations.

- 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 is enough “capacity” to submit your final portfolio at the end of the semester)

**This USB will NOT be returned*

DO NOT USE OR INCLUDE YOUR STUDENT ID ON ANYTHING!

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

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INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

NAME: Steve Lama

OFFICE LOCATION & HOURS: (Subject to change)

Tues/Thurs: 12:30 – 13:15 Union Pick and shovel or LART 405M
15:30 – 16:15 LART 405M

AND BY APPOINTMENT

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

EMAIL: slama@utep.edu (ONLY!)

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/podcast” commercials to advanced documentaries, as well as gaining an understanding of how audio works in television, film, and online media.

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.

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- Technical exercises:
- Book on Tape (or Radio Drama, Play) production
- Radio Bumpers
- Commercial and PSA
- Interview/Podcast
- News story
- Radio program
- Video Foley

Evaluation:

ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE GRADED (Pass/Fail) USING THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- Does the assignment fit or address the requirements?
- Technical elements as described in the initial assignment details.
- Turned in on time.
- **Saved and labeled correctly (IF NOT, MAY BE PENALIZED UP TO 20% AT INSTRUCTORS DISCRETION)**

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.

DUE DATE: ALL FINAL projects due the last week of the semester, before FINALS week, on USB or “late” submissions through Bb, I DO NOT accept assignments through email or any cloud based storage system!

Attendance: (15%) 150 points

Exams/Quizzes: (15%) 150 points

Lab practicum exercise assignment: (15%) 150 points

Assignments: (55%) 550 points

900 – 1,000	A
800 – 899	B
700 – 799	C
600 – 699	D
0 – 599	F

I = Incomplete:

Because this is a case by case situation, based on the reason for receiving an Incomplete (I) your final grade will require additional coursework. If this option is taken, it will be totally up to the individual to stay on top of completing what needs to be completed. . I will NOT process ANY previous "Incompletes" during the final 3-4 weeks of the current semester; in other words, your "crisis" to complete your incomplete does NOT become my crisis as time draws near to the deadline. The exact details will be discussed and agreed upon if we need to cross this bridge.

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Concerning grades, I DO NOT email grades or scores... so please don't ask.

A final word about grades...if you are concerned about your grade, DO NOT wait until the last week of the semester and express concern. At that point your "crisis" does not become my crisis. As for asking about extra credit, if I give ANY extra credit, it will ONLY make-up for a missed day or two. Extra credit will NOT replace missing assignments or low exam grades.

Assignments: (55%)

These are graded as pass (90) 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.

You may be required to submit weekly progress reports/assignments and used for class critiques.

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: (15%)

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/Class Participation: (15%) 150 points

Class participation is primarily based on your attendance and submission of progress assignments as requested. Un announced pop-quizzes may be given if overall attendance begins to drop and those scores will be averaged into your attendance score.

Drop policy: It is the responsibility of students to drop themselves if they desire to receive a “W” in the course (check the official university calendar found under the calendar link on Bb and below). 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 DO NOT drop anyone for missed classes or lack of attending class.

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Students, who are not progressing satisfactory and wish to drop the class, must follow the official college guidelines in obtaining a “W” for their final grade. If you end up taking an Incomplete (I) for the class, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to prepare all the proper paperwork as well as complete the material required and file any remaining paperwork. I will not track you down and finish what you did not complete. If you fail to take care of the proper material, an Incomplete (I) will eventually default to the grade earned based on the work completed to that point.

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.

If you are on the roster at the end of the semester, you will receive the grade you have earned!

Rules, Class Policy, Etc.

Attendance:

You are expected to be in class every session just like with any other class or your job. If you miss class, it’s your responsibility to reach out to a fellow classmate to find out what was covered. It’s not my responsibility to repeat class lectures for repeatedly missing class. I will happily repeat material as needed to ensure comprehension but not for lack of attendance.

LATE WORK POLICY:

Once a due date is set, anything submitted AFTER the due date, will be accepted at my discretion. If accepted, it will be subject to a late penalty of 10-20% grade reduction, NO EXCEPTIONS!

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).

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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. 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. 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.

Additional University resources:

The University offers students many other resources that may be of help. I have added a section to our course in Bb with links those various campus resources. If you feel a need to reach out, please take advantage of what's available to you as students.

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Calendar – SUBJECT & LIKELY TO CHANGE AS NECESSARY

		Audio – SPRING 2025
Tuesday	21-Jan	Intro to class
Thursday	23-Jan	Equipment discussion
Tuesday	28-Jan	Assignments discussion
Thursday	30-Jan	Meet outside for audio walk
Tuesday	4-Feb	Discussion on silence
Thursday	6-Feb	Recording technical exercise
Tuesday	11-Feb	Recording technical exercise contd.
Thursday	13-Feb	Recording technical exercise contd.
Tuesday	18-Feb	Intro to Audition
Thursday	20-Feb	Audition contd.
Tuesday	25-Feb	Audition contd.
Thursday	27-Feb	Open Lab
Tuesday	4-Mar	Sound/Foley
Thursday	6-Mar	Foley contd.
Tuesday	11-Mar	SPRING BREAK
Thursday	13-Mar	SPRING BREAK
Tuesday	18-Mar	Foley contd.
Thursday	20-Mar	Open Lab
Tuesday	25-Mar	Radio Drama
Thursday	27-Mar	Radio Drama contd.
Tuesday	1-Apr	Podcast/News/Interview
Thursday	3-Apr	Podcast/News/Interview contd.
Tuesday	8-Apr	Mics
Thursday	10-Apr	Mics contd.
Tuesday	15-Apr	Lecture on Audio
Thursday	17-Apr	Open Lab
Tuesday	22-Apr	Lecture on Audio contd.
Thursday	24-Apr	Open Lab
Tuesday	29-Apr	Lecture on Audio contd.
Thursday	1-May	Lecture on Audio contd.
Tuesday	6-May	Open Lab
Thursday	8-May	FINAL PORTFOLIOS DUE!

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