

Course Number: **ARTD 369**
Course Name: **Audio Art**
Meeting Time and Room: TU/TH 2PM - 4:45PM AB 316
Professor: Mr. Bart Woodstrup
Office Hours: TU/TH 10a.m. - 11a.m. Design Office Room H (by appointment)
Semester: Fall 2011
Email: bwoodstrup@niu.edu or bart@bartwoodstrup.com
Phone: 815.753.3808 (email preferred)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide an introduction to computer music, sound recording, and sound design. A primary focus will be hands-on creative work with sound, concentrating on the use of audio as an expressive art form. There will also be an introduction to some of the literature, history and theory of the field.

Through a study of sound effect creation, Foley Art, and Synesthetic Art, audio will be incorporated with time-based visual material (video). In addition, you will be introduced to ideas concepts for the creation of interactive, immersive aural environments and audio as used in installation art.

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course the student will:

- Identify and be proficient in using various types of microphones, cables, and mixers.
- Publish and distribute audio content across a variety of media and formats.
- Develop critical thinking as it applies to audio as an artistic medium.
- Exhibit fluency in the historical and contemporary Audio/Experimental Art practice, artists and methodologies.
- Master a variety of recording, editing, and mixing techniques.
- Generate and incorporate audio for inclusion with visual and interactive media.

RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

You will be required to purchase professional headphones and media for recording and distributing your projects (thumb/jump drives, CD/DVD's, webspace, AA batteries, etc.) , please budget accordingly. You may wish consider joining online 'tutorial' websites for additional technical advice (i.e. lynda.com). We will mainly be using Adobe Audition, Audacity, Flash, and/or MAX/MSP/Jitter. You may wish to download a 30-day demo or student version of MAX5 (cycling74.com). You will not be required to purchase any software for this course.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The Sound Effects Bible by Ric Viers <http://www.soundeffects bible.com/>

ASSIGNMENTS

10% Exercises, and participation
10% Quizzes
10% Sound Project 10/10
10% Sound Fix and Mix
15% SFX/Foley Art
15% Amplified Cactus
15% Podcast
15% Musique Concrete

100% Total

Note: If, as a class, we are unable to complete an assignment, the percentage points for that project will be distributed amongst the other assignments.

ASSESSMENT

Participation

- You will be required to discuss topics, present your work, and provide constructive feedback about your colleague's work (both in-class and online).
- Part of each assignment grade will be based on your participation during critique.
- Ideas and comments that intentionally cause any physical or emotional harm to the student or anyone else will not be accepted.
- A student may excuse themselves for a short duration if there is a conflict of religious beliefs with the content presented.

Attendance

- Attendance is mandatory and taken at the beginning of class. If you arrive after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor.

Attendance and tardy final grade modifications as follows:

- Each three tardies equal one absence.
- Each three absences equal reduction of total points by one letter grade.
- Work-in-class days are not "free" days, and you are required to attend.
- Attendance to the final critique during exam week is mandatory. Failure to appear may result in the reduction of total points by one letter grade.

Grading

- Grades will be based on an appropriate level for continuation into an artistic or industry related profession.
- Any appeal for grades must be brought to the instructor during office hours or at a scheduled time convenient to both parties.
- Incomplete grades ("I") will only be granted for the death of a family member during the semester, or a note from a doctor documenting a hospitalization representing a significant period of time.
- Only if given the final grade of "I" (incomplete) will additional work after the conclusion of a semester be accepted.

Grades are not curved and adhere to the following scale:

- 100-90 A = Excellent work that exhibits a mastery of all aspects of the assignment.
- 89-80 B = Above average work that satisfies all basic requirements.
- 79-70 C = Adequate work that satisfies all basic requirements.
- 69-60 D = Weak work that is careless or lacks effort.
- 59-0 F = Incomplete or failing work.

Note: I will send grades and official announcements via blackboard so make sure to read your official NIU email. This syllabus may be modified at the instructor's discretion. Students will be notified in a timely manner of any changes.

Exhibiting Student Work:

I customarily document student assignments that I wish to reproduce (with credit) in my scholarly work. If you do not want me to reproduce your work or use your name, please notify me in writing. I customarily credit student work when it's displayed on the boards or posted on the Internet. If you do not want me to use your name or post your work, please notify me in writing.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Student-teacher relationships are built on trust. Students must trust that teachers have made appropriate decisions about the structure and content of the courses they teach. Additionally, teachers must trust that the assignments that students turn in are theirs. Acts that violate this trust undermine the educational process. All work produced in this course must be original and created by the student. The first infraction will result in a failure for the course and a report to the Office of the Dean. Works that involved the use of appropriation should be discussed with your instructor before you submit them for grading. Collaborative work and discussion is encouraged. Instructor must be notified of students' intention to collaborate on assignments well ahead of that assignment's deadline. Instructor will determine whether or not collaboration will be allowed. Upon assignment completion, there must be documentation of each member's contribution to the finished assignment. The instructor reserves the right to award members of the collaboration different grades.

Statement on Plagiarism and Appropriation

Plagiarism is a serious offense, it is not allowed, and will be taken very seriously in this class (typically resulting in course or project failure - depending upon the severity of the act). Very simply, plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's work (in part or whole) and claiming that it was yours. Do not get plagiarism and appropriation confused. Appropriation is the act of using someone else's work to create a new work - often retaining the original authorship and/or creating a commentary on the original context. Appropriation plays an important role in cultural criticism and can be very effective artistically. Appropriation will be allowed for this class provided that you either receive written permission from the owner or are using work that follows the Creative Commons "Attribution + Noncommercial + ShareAlike (by-nc-sa)" license or Copyleft license. You must always make a reference to the work you are appropriating in the documentation of your work.

Look for these symbols:



For more information you should review these links:

<http://www.appropriationart.ca/>
<http://www.illegal-art.org/>
<http://www.prelinger.com/>
<http://creativecommons.org/>
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Copyleft>

DISABILITY CLAUSE

NIU abides by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which mandates reasonable accommodations be provided for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact me early in the semester so that I can provide or facilitate in providing accommodations you may need.

If you have not already done so, you will need to register with the Center for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR), the designated office on campus to provide services and administer exams with

accommodations for students with disabilities. The CAAR office is located on the 4th floor of the University Health Services building (815-753-1303). I look forward to talking with you soon to learn how I may be helpful in enhancing your academic success in this course.

CLUSTER CLASSES (Graduate Students)

Graduate students taking this course will be required to attend all critiques and should attend all lectures for subjects in which they are deficient. It is your responsibility to observe the course timeline (changes may occur and will be posted online and on Blackboard).

Graduate students are required to submit the same coursework (including readings) that is assigned for undergraduates, however the quality and concept should be of a higher caliber than that of the undergraduate level. At times, additional readings or exercises may be assigned for graduate students.

You may only submit work that is being graded in multiple courses with the written approval (email) of all instructors involved.