

Birmingham-Southern College
Media & Film Studies
MFS 340
Sound Recording and Design

Course Schedule

Class Meetings: Tuesday-Thursday 2:00-3:20pm, Humanities 117

Instructor Information

Instructor: Matthew Miller

Office Hours: 9am-12pm Tuesday and Thursday or by appointment

Contact: 615-686-4567

mjmille1@bsc.edu

I will send out email announcements or lecture supplements via Moodle, so plan on checking your bsc.edu email and Moodle accounts frequently during the semester. You may also use Moodle to send out class emails.

OFFICE VISITS ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED!

Course Description

Media & Film Studies is the study of voice, music, sound effects, and the impact they have on the visual image. By learning the role of sound recordists, foley artists, sound designers, and sound editors, students address the principles of recording sound in studio and field environments, conceive soundscapes for video, and put all elements together in post-production.

PREREQUISITES

MFS 220

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Use various microphones, including handhelds, shotguns, and lavaliers or recording voice and sound effects
- Select proper microphone to use in different recording situation
- Record acceptable audio levels using a basic field mixer
- Communicate with the other sound and video personnel using correct terminology and technical names
- Mix and adjust audio levels and music in post-production to achieve sound continuity
- Use dynamic audio and video together to evoke the intended audience response

REQUIRED MATERIALS

Hard drive (at least 1 TB)
SD Cards for camera and audio recording
Headphones
AA and 9-volt batteries

REQUIRED TEXT

Rose, Jay. Producing Great Sound for Film & Video (4th Edition). Focal Press. ISBN: 978-0-415-72207-0

GRADING

Professionalism	25%
Practical Exam	10%
Sound Analysis	5%
Project #1	5%
Project #2	5%
Project #3	10%
Project #4	10%
Project #5	30%
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	100%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course requires professionalism, assigned reading, and analysis of a professional film and presentation of findings, a practical exam (testing of multiple skills), and major projects that build upon each other.

Professionalism is a purely subjective grade based on your willingness to show enthusiasm in class and participate in class discussions, exercises, and projects. Occasional quizzes will cover reading assignments and will contribute to the Professionalism grade. Diligent attendance is required, both in class and in scheduled production activities. Tardiness is not tolerated. Absences, tardiness, sleeping, checking phone, etc., will all be noted and will affect your grade. Simply being present is not sufficient to receive an excellent grade; you must also make informed, meaningful, and consistent contributions to class discussion and projects. Your professionalism grade will reflect your level of involvement in class exercises and group projects. Failure to contribute to projects will result in a low or failing overall grade.

The **practical exam** will cover each student's mastery of audio equipment and software.

The **sequence analysis** will require students to examine a sequence from an assigned film to analyze the creative and technical decisions made by the director and sound designer. The analysis will help synthesize the topics covered in class, and the skills learned in completing your assignments, in order to benefit your future projects.

The **five projects** will consist of high quality recording of dialogue and sound effects, editing tracks in a video project, adding music, and preparing the final audio mix along with the visual image. The final project should be a professional-quality video. No musical training is required.

Project assignments will be handed out a few weeks before they are due. *You are required to work on individual and group projects outside of scheduled class and lab time unless otherwise specified by your instructor. You must plan ahead.* You can reserve your equipment & facilities in advance.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED WHEN SPECIFIED. PLAN TO COMPLETE ALL PROJECTS WELL BEFORE PROJECT IS DUE.

Failure to submit an assignment on time will result in a severely penalized grade or a zero. In order for late assignments to be considered, arrangements must be made in advance unless there is a legitimate medical excuse.

POLICIES

These policies are in place in order to limit distractions and help us do our best work.

- No food is allowed. Drinks are allowed in classrooms. No food or drinks are allowed in the computer lab or studio.
- Be respectful during student screenings and presentations.
- You may **not** use laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices in lecture or in screenings, except when allowed by the instructor. You may take notes on paper.
- Please get involved during class. It is much more fun when everyone is engaged. Questions and dialogue are encouraged. However, be respectful of the instructor and fellow students and don't interrupt.
- Respect the opinions of your classmates and instructor. Disagreements and debates may occur, but do not engage in personal attacks and argumentative tones, in or outside of class.
- Be safe when shooting. All locations and equipment must be cleared by the instructor before shooting.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

I do not tolerate plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic misconduct (this includes conferring with classmates on graded assignments or exam answers, creating "cheat sheets," etc.). In a production class, you must acquire all video and audio elements legitimately, and you must be responsible for all equipment that you use. All suspected cases of academic misconduct will be referred to the Honor Council, and consequences may result in failed assignment grades, and overall grade "F" for the semester, and suspension and probation for BSC. Ignorance of the rules is not an excuse.

Adhere to the Honor Code at all times: "As a member of the student body of Birmingham-Southern College, I recognize my responsibility to the traditions of the institutions, to my fellow students and to myself. I recognize the significance of the honor system. I pledge

that I have read and understand the Constitutions of the Honor Council, including the Honor Code, and agree to be bound by its provisions.”

Additional information on the Honor Code and violations can be found in the Birmingham-Southern Student Handbook and on the BSC website:

<https://www.bsc.edu/campus/student/honor-council/index.html>

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are registered for accommodations/academic adjustments, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations that may be necessary. During this discussion, you are not expected to disclose any details concerning your disability, though you may discuss these details at your discretion. If you have a disability but have not contacted Angie Smith, Coordinator of Academic Accessibility Services at BSC, please call 205-226-7909, email her a awsmith@bsc.edu, or visit her in Student Services on the second floor of the Norton Campus Center (office 225). Her office hours are Mondays-Fridays 8:30-4:30. An appointment is recommended.

BSC RESOURCES FOR WRITERS

The Writing Center, located in the Humanities Center (Room 102), offers one-on-one assistance for student writers. We serve all writers, in any BSC course, at all levels and at all points in the writing process. Peer tutors spend thirty minutes to an hour per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have. Our tutors also help with reading assignments. Visit during regular hours (Monday-Thursday, 3:30-10 & Sunday 5-10) or email writingcenter@bsc.edu to make an appointment. Don't write alone; every writer needs a reader. Oh, and we also have free espresso and movie popcorn.

ATTITUDE:

A professional attitude is essential for a successful career in video, television, film, and audio production. It's not enough to know technique and technology. A professional attitude in the industry will frequently determine if you find and keep jobs. Lateness on a professional assignment would not be accepted. The same rules apply to the classroom. Show a good attitude-get a good grade.

COURSE CALENDAR

OUR COURSE CALENDAR IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION

WEEK 1		Overview and Philosophy of the Course Intro to Equipment <i>Assignment: Rose Chapter 4</i>
WEEK 1		Class discussion of Rose Chapter 4 Planning your music/audio for projects <i>Assignment: Rose Chapter 6</i>

WEEK 2		Discussion of Rose Chapter 6 Types and Patterns of Microphones <i>Assignment: Project #1 (Group Project)</i>
WEEK 2		Discussion of Rose Chapter 6 How to use the room. Diffusion & Absorption / <i>Assignment: Rose 7 & 8</i>
WEEK 3		Class discussion of Rose 7 & 8 How to mic a scene Group Exercise- Field Mixer and Lav Mics
WEEK 3		Group work Project #1
WEEK 4		<u>Project #1 Due</u> Presentation and Workshop <i>Assignment: Project #2</i>
WEEK 4		Sound Editing <i>Assignment: Rose 9</i> <i>Assignment: Sequence Analysis</i>
WEEK 5		Sound Editing Group work Project #2
WEEK 5		Discuss Rose Chapter 9 <i>Assignment Project #3</i>
WEEK 6		<u>Project #2 Due</u> Presentation and Workshop <i>Assignment: Chapter 17</i> <i>Assignment: Project #3</i>
WEEK 6		Group Work Project #3
WEEK 7		Discussion of Chapter 17
WEEK 7		<u>Sequence Analysis Due</u>
WEEK 8		SPRING BREAK
WEEK 9		<u>Project #3 Due</u> Presentation and Workshop <i>Assignment: Project #4 and Project #5</i>
WEEK 9		Supervised/Individual Work Project #4
WEEK 10		Review for Practical Exam

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WEEK 11		<u>Practical Exam (Part 1)</u>
WEEK 11		<u>Practical Exam (Part 2)</u>
WEEK 12		<u>Project #4 Due</u>
WEEK 12		Supervised/Individual Work Project #5
WEEK 13		Supervised/Individual Work Project #5
WEEK 14		Supervised/Individual Work Project #5
WEEK 15		<u>Project #5 due</u> Presentations and Workshop

IMPORTANT DATES

March 1st - Last Day to Drop a Course without a Grade

March 17th - Midterm Assessments Due

March 29th - Last Day to Drop a Course with a Grade of "W"