

The University of Southern Mississippi School of Mass Communication & Journalism

COURSE NUMBER: EI 451

COURSE TITLE: Sound for the Image

TERM: Fall 2017

TIME / LOCATION:

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sound for the Image (8W2) is designed to evaluate, critique, and discuss the various aspects of sound and its interaction with film and television. By actively viewing films with an emphasis on music, voice, foley, and design, the course establishes the basic components of sound for moving image. Expanding on the elements of the basic components, the course will explore their complex interactions and how sound informs space, time, character, and narrative.

INSTRUCTOR: Mike Maxwell, MFA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students participating in EI 451, Sound for the Image will be capable of identifying the aspects of sound within film and television, analyzing their contextual purpose, and critiquing their interactions with image and narrative.

COURSE MATERIALS

Contact Cards / Business Cards
Digital Audio Workstation access
Professional, Over-ear, Headphones

COURSE READINGS

Required: Sonnenschein, David. *Sound Design: The Expressive Power of Music, Voice, and Sound Effects in Cinema*. Michael Wiese Productions, 2001.

ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS

Quiz / Exams: 25%

Assignments

Film Responses: 60%

Sound Design Short: 15%

Total: 100%

ASSIGNMENT STANDARDS

Unless otherwise noted or discussed, all projects and assignments must be turned in as a physical (hard) copy (paper, CD, other standard physical medium). For visual and audio projects, that means they must be turned in on a CD or DVD. Written or miscellaneous media must be printed on paper and turned in. Digital (soft) copies are not accepted as a grade-able medium for any project unless discussed with professor or otherwise instructed.

ATTENDANCE / PROFESSIONALISM / PARTICIPATION

As adults, it is expected that you will take your education seriously. It is understood that emergencies can happen, but it is your responsibility to inform your instructor. Plan ahead, though you should not use an excused absence if you do not have too. Not only do you run the chance of needing it later, but you will miss content and learning opportunities that inevitably impact your overall performance in the class.

To discourage absences and foster the learning environment, each unexcused absence or two late-arrivals will result in a half-letter grade reduction (-5%). You are considered late when your name is called for roll call. An excused absence or late-arrival is one that is determined and granted at the sole discretion of the instructor.

The student is responsible for acquiring any missed notes or assignments from classmates (the instructor is not required to reteach material) and tests/assignments/quizzes must be completed prior to the absence unless other arrangements have been made. In the event that prior notice of absence could not be given, students are expected to make up any and all work missed due to excused absences within one week of the absence.

Professionalism is expected in the classroom, and is essential to promoting a quality learning environment for all. Violating any of the professionalism guidelines will have a negative impact on your grade. Depending on the seriousness of the issue, the impact can range from a warning, to a grade reduction, to a referral to the appropriate administrator (i.e., School Director, Dean of Students, etc.)

PROFESSIONALISM GUIDELINES

Again, do not miss class.

Be on time to class, return from breaks on time, and attend class for the entire duration.

Be prepared for class with proper supplies, books and materials including the assigned homework completed and prepared to turn in using the format specified by instructor.

Actively participate in class discussion, projects, critiques and/or activities.

Use language and actions appropriate for a professional setting, including professional and cultural sensitivity.

Turn your cell phone and personal computer off unless otherwise instructed by the faculty;
Use technology appropriately during class (i.e., computer for class work and NOT other sites/social media, etc.)

Help other students and the instructor as needed.

Attend group meetings as assigned.

Avoid copyright infringement - plagiarism will NOT be tolerated.

Use school equipment, time, and resources in a professional manner to produce professional-level assignments/projects.

GRADING / PERCENTAGES

The grade percentages below are the equivalent percentages for grade marks issued on assignments and projects that are not pass/fail. Test scores are recorded as actual percentage.

Overall Course Grading Scale & Criteria

A: 90 - 100%

B: 80 - 89.99%

C: 70 - 79.99%

D: 60 - 69.99%

F: < 59.99%

A = Superior: This grade is a mark of distinction for students who have repeatedly and variously demonstrated talent, initiative, and self-reliance as well as their grasp of the substance and intent of the course and of its relevance to the discipline as a whole.

B = Excellent: This grade is awarded in recognition of a student's above average performance throughout the course and excellence in some aspects, whether of imagination, initiative in the setting and resolution of problems, or by habits of mind and of work.

C = Satisfactory: This is given for satisfactory completion of more than minimal course requirements. It is an earned grade and is not given merely for effort or for regular class attendance alone.

D = Unsatisfactory: Implies that effort has been irregular and deficient, or that work is generally not up to average standards, or that the student's work habits are deficient, or some combination of Some or all of these.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 9 - October 9 / 11: Introduction and syllabus overview. Lecture. / Silent Horror screening.

Week 10 - October 16 / 18: Lecture. Film Response 1 Due. / *Fellowship of the Ring* screening.

Week 11 - October 23 / 25: Lecture. Film Response 2 Due. / *The Conversation* screening.

Week 12 - October 30 / November 1: Lecture and Quiz. Film Response 3 Due. / *No Country for Old Men* screening.

Week 13 - November 6 / 8: Lecture. Film Response 4 Due. / *Wall-E* screening.

Week 14 - November 13 / 15: Lecture. Film Response 5 Due. / *Superfly* screening.

Week 15 - November 20 / 22: Lecture. Film Response 6 Due. / No meeting. Thanksgiving.

Week 16 - November 27 / 29: Final exam review. / Sound Design Short Due.

Final Exam Time: Wednesday, December 6 at 1:30pm - 4:00pm

The instructor reserves the right to apply changes to the syllabus and schedule as needed

IMPORTANT DATES

Course Dates - October to December 1

Final Exam Dates - December 4 to December 7

Last day to add / drop without penalty - August 23

Last day to receive a 100% refund - August 23

Last day to drop courses without instructor's permission - August 23

Approve dropped courses will receive a "W" - August 24 to October 27

Last day to make a drop request - October 27

COURSE WORK

Film Responses: 60%

You will write a response to each film we view as a part of EI 451, Sound for the Image. These responses will be oriented towards the thematic of the viewing: music, voice, foley, sound design. Discuss, in part or whole, the thematic component and how it functions throughout the film. The written response should be a total of **2 single spaced pages** (Times New Roman, 1" margins, APA citation) and include reference to the required course reading material, discussion, and screened film.

Sound Design Short: 15%

You will create either a soundscape or sound design intended to be used with a cinematic scene. Choose a **1 minute clip** from any source material that interests you and strip away the original audio in a digital workstation. It is advised that you avoid clips with dialog. For the project, reconstruct or design a new sound for the clip - **all sounds will be original products** - do not use someone else's music or soundscape. This should include any **musical, voice, foley, and sound design elements**. For the project, you will need to **document your process**, workflow, etc. Upon delivering the clip on **CD**, you will have a **video clip with stereo audio**, screenshots or scans of written **documentation**, and images of any recording or audio capturing techniques you utilized.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If a student has a disability that qualifies under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and requires accommodations, he/she should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations (ODA) for information on appropriate policies and procedures. Disabilities covered by ADA may include learning, psychiatric, physical disabilities, or chronic health disorders. Students can contact ODA if they are not certain whether a medical condition/disability qualifies.

Address:

The University of Southern Mississippi
Office for Disability Accommodations
118 College Drive # 8586
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001

Voice Telephone: 601.266.5024 or 228.214.3232

Fax: 601.266.6035

Individuals with hearing impairments can contact ODA using the Mississippi Relay Service at 1.800.582.2233 (TTY) or emailing ODA at oda@usm.edu.

Note that faculty members must accommodate students with disabilities and must adhere to the excused absence policy of the University. Faculty members are required to excuse absences in which a student misses class in his or her capacity as an official representative of the University. In such cases, students must be given a reasonable opportunity to make up work. See Faculty Handbook 4.5.4. Documentation in these two cases will come from ODA or from the official body for which the student serves as a representative.

MENTAL WELL-BEING STATEMENT

Southern Miss recognizes that students sometimes experience challenges that make learning difficult. If you find that life stressors such as anxiety, depression, relationship problems, difficulty concentrating, alcohol/drug problems, or other stressful experiences are interfering with your academic or personal success, consider contacting Student Counseling Services on campus at 601.266.4829. More information is also available at www.usm.edu/student-counseling-services. All students are eligible for free, confidential individual or group counseling services.

In the event of emergency, please call 911 or contact the counselor on call at 601.606.HELP (4357).

CONFIDENTIALITY & MANDATORY REPORTING

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create and maintain a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as a faculty member. I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct or information about a crime that may have occurred on USM's campus with certain University officials responsible for the investigation and remediation of sexual misconduct. The information will remain private and will only be shared with those officials necessary to resolve the matter. If you would like to speak in confidence, resources available to students include Confidential Advisors with the Shafer Center for Crisis Intervention, the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, and Clergy. More information on these resources and University Policies is available at <https://www.usm.edu/sexual-misconduct>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students at the University of Southern Mississippi are expected to demonstrate the highest levels of academic integrity in all that they do. Forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to):

1. Cheating (including copying from others' work)
2. Plagiarism (representing another person's words or ideas as your own; failure to properly cite the source of your information, argument, or concepts)
3. Falsification of documents
4. Disclosure of test or other assignment content to another student
5. Submission of the same paper or other assignment to more than one class without the explicit approval of all faculty members' involved
6. Unauthorized academic collaboration with others
7. Conspiracy to engage in academic misconduct

Engaging in any of these behaviors or supporting others who do so will result in academic penalties and/or other sanctions. If a faculty member determines that a student has violated our Academic Integrity Policy, sanctions ranging from resubmission of work to course failure may occur, including the possibility of receiving a grade of "XF" for the course, which will be on the student's transcript with the notation "Failure due to academic misconduct." For more details, please see the University's [Academic Integrity Policy](#). Note that repeated acts of academic misconduct will lead to expulsion from the University.