

NAME OF SCHOOL: School of Communication, Cinematic & Creative Arts

SEMESTER: SPRING

COURSE: SND 3005A - Sound Mixing

LECTURER: Gabriel Thuku Kimani

TIME/DAYS: Friday 5:40pm - 9:00pm

CREDIT: 3 Units

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1. DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to enhance the learner's knowledge and skills in film sound processing. will be able to appreciate sound calibration and its significance in good sound production and management.

1.1 Prerequisite: None

2. PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

- a. Analyze film theory traditions and practices in a global context.
- b. Script, produce, direct, shoot, act and edit films of different genres.
- c. Apply ethical, legal and management principles in film business.
- d. Use appropriate technology to make films.
- e. Manage production teams through synergy and resonance to achieve set production goals.

3. EXPECTED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- a. Create project workflows in digital audio workstations.
- b. Adjust levels and mix of film audio for optimal sound.
- c. Use plugins to modify sound signals.
- d. Edit and playback sound using digital audio workstations.

4. CONTENT & CLASS SCHEDULE:

4.1 Week One: Digital Audio Workstations - Input Output Routing

- Audio interfacing
- Testing inputs and outputs
- DAW Project properties
- Tracks and channels
- Opening a file for editing

4.2 Week Two: Digital Audio Workstations - Adobe Audition CC - Multitrack Session

- About multitrack production
- Create a multitrack session
- Multitrack session templates
- Changing track colours
- The Tracks panel
- Track controls
- Channel mapping in the Multitrack Editor
- The Multitrack Editor Effects Rack

4.3 Week Three: Class Sound Practical – Sound level balancing

- Balancing techniques: Fading, amplification, Dynamics control
- Balancing tools: Fader, gain/trim, normalization, amplification, attenuation, compressor,

4.4 Week Four: Digital Audio Workstations - Keyframe Editing / Automation

- Automation
- About automation
- Clip automation
- Track automation

4.5 Week Five: Class Sound Practical – Sound clip fixing

- Noise reduction
- Timing/synch fix
- Distortion/clipping fix
- Tools: Noise gate, expander, dehummer, deesser etc.

4.6 Week Six: Digital Audio Workstations – Sound enhancing

- Special effects
- Pitch effects
- Modulation effects
- Flanger

4.7 Week Seven: Mid Term Examination

4.8 Week Eight: Digital Audio Workstations– Sound shape and Imaging

- Imaging systems
- Stereo imaging
- Surround sound imaging
- Stereo panning
- Surround panning
- Stereo and surround monitoring

4.9 Week Nine: Digital Audio Workstations – Sound Space processing

- Sound spatial components: Acoustics, distance, dimensions, composition
- Delay and echo effects
- Reverb effects
- Fading

4.10 Week Ten: Final Project - Metering and monitoring

- Mixing monitoring setup
- Final mix loudness metering
- Multichannel Exporting
- Mixdowns
- Mastering.

4.11 Week Eleven: Final Project - Continuation & Assessment

4.12 Week Twelve: Final Project - Continuation & Assessment

4.13 Week Thirteen: Critique and Analysis of Class Sound Projects & Final Class Discussions

4.14 Week Fourteen - Final Examination Project Presentation

5. TEACHING METHODS: Lectures, Class Presentations, Tutorials, Videos

6. COURSE TEXT & OTHER READINGS

Course Text:

- a. Owsinski, B. (2013). *The Mixing Engineers Handbook*. Cengage Learning.
- b. Kimani, G. (2022). *Sound Design in Film: A Kenyan Cinema Book Series*. Utafiti Foundation.

Recommended Reference Material:

- a. Holman, T. (2010). *Sound for film and television* (3rd ed.). Burlington, MA: Focal Press.
- b. Sonnenschein, D. (2001). *Sound design: The expressive power of music, voice, and sound effects in cinema*. Studio City, CA: Michael Wiese Productions.
- c. Nisbett, A. (2003). *The sound studio: Audio techniques for radio, television, film and recording* (7th ed.). Amsterdam: Focal Press.
- d. Rose, J. (2014). *Producing great sound for film and video: Expert tips from preproduction to final mix* (Fourth ed.). Abingdon: Focal Press.
- e. Senior, M. (2011). *Mixing Secrets for the Small Studio*. Focal Press

Other Library resources:

You can access Web Based Databases such as EBSCOhost, Ebrary, Keesings, Online, PsycARTICLES, JSTOR, Gale to locating articles in journals, electronic books, magazines and newspapers through the library catalog, which is available on-line from within and outside the campus via the USIU website

(<http://www.usiu.ac.ke>). There are 24 workstations within the library, and Wired access points, available throughout the building, provide high speed network connections. There are also other workstations in the computer labs. Accessibility of e- resources off campus is through Virtual Private Network (VPN).

7. COURSE EVALUATION

Attendance and participation	10%
Practical Project 1	40%
Mid-Semester Exam	20%
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

8. KEY INSTITUTIONAL ACADEMIC POLICIES

Students should note the following are key policies as outlined in the University Catalogue and Students Handbook

1. Academic dishonesty

- Any intentional giving or use of external assistance during an examination without the express permission of the faculty member giving the examination.
- Fabrication: any falsification or invention of data, citation or other authority in an academic exercise;
- Plagiarism: any passing off of another's ideas, words, or work as one's own;
- Previously Submitted Work: presenting work prepared for and submitted to another course;

2. Class Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Upon being absent from more seven classes in a 3 credit unit course or from more than three classes for those that meet once a week, the instructor will give a student an "F" grade for that course.

10. USIU GRADING

- A 90 - 100
- A - 87 - 89
- B + 84 - 86
- B 80 - 83
- B - 77 - 79
- C + 74 - 76
- C 70 - 73
- C - 67 - 69
- D + 64 - 66
- D 62 - 63
- D - 60 - 61
- F 0 - 59