

PELLISSIPPI STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MASTER SYLLABUS

**SOUND PRODUCTION
VPT 1015**

Class Hours: 3.0

Credit Hours: 3.0

Laboratory Hours: 0.0

Date Revised: Spring 2011

Catalog Course Description:

An introduction to basic audio production equipment, processes and analog and digital systems, including introduction to ProTools. Analog and digital systems will be used to record, mix and produce a variety of aural media. Emphasis will be placed on recording on location and in the studio, mixing and effects, and processing of multiple sound tracks for use in film, television/video, and the multimedia environment.

Entry Level Standards:

The student should be able to effectively communicate with instructor and peers, complete assignments according to instructor specifications, and read and write at the required level.

Prerequisites:

None

Co-requisites:

None

Textbook(s) and Other Course Materials:

Sources of related information including videotapes, trade journals, library resources and Internet sources will be used. Note: Thanks to a major effort by the acquisitions staff at the College and funding by special grants like COE, Pellissippi State has built a large collection of books and videotapes related to the telecommunications industry. Students should investigate and utilize these resources.

Students may want to purchase 1 portable/external Firewire hard drive with a minimum storage of 100 gigabytes, an 8 gig Flash/USB drive, student discount on software for the course, a laptop computer, 2 DVDs and Headphones.

Required Textbook:

Tomlinson Holman, Sound for Film and Television, FOCAL PRESS. LATEST EDITION AVAILABLE.

REQUIRED: pair of prosumer headphones, (at least \$50), such as the KOSS PRO-4AAT. Highly recommended: Sony 7506 or Audio-Technica ATH-M50.

I. Week/Unit/Topic Basis:

Week Topic

- 1 Sound
- 2 Sound and Hearing Acoustics and Psychoacoustics Sound Studios
- 3 Microphones
- 4 Mixing Consoles
- 5 Analog Recording
- 6 Digital Recording
- 7 Sync and Signal Processing
- 8 Loudspeakers and Monitoring
- 9 Studio Production
- 10 On-Location Recording and Production
- 11 Postproduction
- 12 Editing
- 13 Mixing and Rerecording and Layback to Video
- 14 Internet and digital distribution
- 15 Final Exam Period

II. Course Goals*:

The course will:

- A. Demonstrate ability to set up and operate equipment commonly used for audio recording, playback, processing, and editing. IV
- B. Exhibit appropriate responsibility in the care and handling of equipment, facilities, and other physical resources. I, II, IV
- C. Employ industry established pre-production, production, and post-production control procedures. I, II, III, V
- D. Employ industry standard procedures, practices and test equipment required to maintain consistent and acceptable audio signal quality. I
- E. Develop a basic understanding of how to record, process, and edit audio signals employing techniques established in the industry to create compelling aural presentations or accompaniment for visual programs. I, IV

*Roman numerals after course objectives reference goals of the Video Production Technology program (Career Program Goals and General Education Goals are listed http://www.pstcc.edu/departments/curriculum_and_instruction/syllabi/)

III. Expected Student Learning Outcomes*:

Students will: be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of and employ established procedures for responsible care, handling, and use of all equipment. A, B, C, D, E
2. Observe and employ correct procedures for checking out equipment. This includes both VPT equipment and that which is NOT normally part of the VPT program. A, B, C, D, E
3. Understand the basics of sound transmission, hearing, and acoustics and apply that in work. A, B, C, D, E
4. Perform basic audio recording on both analog and digital devices (video decks as well as audio only recorders). Skills will include tone calibration, level setting, and tape handling. Technical topics covered will include the recording mechanism transport components, and tape formations. A, B, C, D, E
5. Identify and properly handle the many signal formats and interconnections being used in the industry. A, B, C, D, E

Identify, understand, and properly use the many types of industry standard microphones and mic accessories available. This includes stereo and multiple miking techniques. A, B, C, D, E

Employ proper microphone boom technique in recording audio for video. A, B, C, D, E

Understand audio mixing basics (the concepts of gain structure and signal flow), and apply that knowledge with both small location mixers as well as large multi-channel studio consoles. A, B, C, D, E

Identify, understand and properly use the many standard signal processing devices. This includes but is not limited to compressors, equalizers, reverberators, delay lines, limiters, and noise gates. A, B, C, D, E

Perform basic editing functions with both analog and digital devices. A, B, C, D, E

Understand the techniques used in multitrack audio production. This includes the standard music production process of tracking, overdubbing, and mixing. A, B, C, D, E

Understand the techniques used in live audio presentations. Concepts include stage monitoring, feedback control, and live music production. A, B, C, D, E

Perform basic maintenance tasks such as cable construction, tape head cleaning and demagnetizing, and simple equipment troubleshooting. A, B, C, D, E

Understand the basics of digital audio. This includes the subjects of sample rate conversion and PC based (or proprietary) digital audio workstations, DAW. A, B, C, D, E

Perform the basic tasks involved in audio sweetening for video. Concepts include machine synchronization, automated mixing, and multi-channel encoding. A, B, C, D, E

Use standard and individually developed techniques to construct creative, compelling, and technically consistent audio programs. A, B, C, D, E

* Capital letters after Expected Student Learning Outcomes reference the course goals listed above.

IV. Evaluation:

A. Testing Procedures: 80% of grade

Written Tests

B. Laboratory Expectations: 20% of grade

Hands-on demonstrations of technical abilities

C. Field Work:

N/A

D. Other Evaluation Methods:

N/A

E. Grading Scale:

90 – 100 A

80 – 89 B

70 – 79 C

60 – 69 D

below 60 F

V. Policies

A. Attendance Policy:

Pellissippi State expects students to attend all scheduled instructional activities. As a minimum, students in all courses (excluding distance learning courses) must be present for at least 75 percent of their scheduled class and laboratory meetings in order to receive credit for the course. Individual departments/programs/disciplines, with the approval of the vice president of the Learning Division, may have requirements that are more stringent. In very specific circumstances, an appeal of the policy may be addressed to the head of the department in which the course was taken. If further action is warranted, the appeal may be addressed to the vice president of the Learning Division.

VPT Program Attendance: The VPT program believes a more stringent requirement is realistic because of the contractual commitment made by the College with local area employers. Therefore, to successfully complete VPT courses, students must attend at least **85% of classes**. To be considered in attendance, students are expected to be in class at the scheduled starting time for that class. Students will be considered tardy from that time until 10 minutes after the scheduled starting time. Three such tardies shall constitute an absence. Students arriving any time after 10 minutes beyond the scheduled starting time for a class will be considered absent

B. Academic Dishonesty:

Academic misconduct committed either directly or indirectly by an individual or group is subject to disciplinary action. Prohibited activities include but are not limited to the following practices:

- Cheating, including but not limited to unauthorized assistance from material, people, or devices when taking a test, quiz, or examination; writing papers or reports; solving problems; or completing academic assignments.
- Plagiarism, including but not limited to paraphrasing, summarizing, or directly quoting published or unpublished work of another person, including online or computerized services, without proper documentation of the original source.
- Purchasing or otherwise obtaining prewritten essays, research papers, or materials prepared by another person or agency that sells term papers or other academic materials to be presented

as one's own work.

- Taking an exam for another student.
- Providing others with information and/or answers regarding exams, quizzes, homework or other classroom assignments unless explicitly authorized by the instructor.
- Any of the above occurring within the Web or distance learning environment.

C. Accommodations for disabilities:

Students who need accommodations because of a disability, have emergency medical information to share, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated should inform the instructor immediately, privately after class or in her or his office. Students must present a current accommodation plan from a staff member in Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) in order to receive accommodations in this course. Services for Students with Disabilities may be contacted by going to Goins 127, 132, 134, 135, 131 or by phone: 539-7153 or TTY 694-6429. More information is available at <http://www.pstcc.edu/sswd/>.

D. Other Policies:

Any act of misuse, vandalism, malicious or unwarranted damage or destruction, defacing, disfiguring, or unauthorized use of property/equipment belonging to Pellissippi State is subject to disciplinary sanction.

No handheld media devices or laptops are allowed in class unless otherwise noted. Students will receive a warning; a second infringement will result in an absence for the class. No gaming, using Facebook, texting or instant messaging will be tolerated on any VPT campus workstations during class.