

Spring 2020

## **DD 402-104: Digital Sound & Music (Revised for Remote Learning)**

Bruce Miller

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The course covers principles of Sound Theory, Audio Engineering & Production, Studio & Field Recording, Mixing, Sound Design, and Surround Sound. Students apply their understanding in projects that include Sound Design on supplied clips or their own video / animation productions.

There are no textbooks. Handouts, software, and hardware will be supplied. Students can sign out available sound recorders between classes.

Students will be graded on homework and short essay assignments (30%), application of course concepts in projects (1<sup>st</sup> project = 10%, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> projects = 20% each), a mid-term (10%), and a final exam (10%). Class attendance is required, even for “lab” classes.

Texting, cell phone use, or any other form of electronic communication is allowed during breaks but like any other distraction is not allowed during lectures without permission. Use of laptops rather than lab computers is acceptable if there is software required for your individual project that is not available on the lab computers, but you **MUST** work in the classroom so that I can provide assistance and monitor your progress. If you are using your own animations, class time cannot be used for rendering. Although there are many different audio programs available, you are required to work in (and will be tested on) the classroom tools and software discussed in class.

*As per the NJSOA Student Guide Book, there will be a full grade penalty for each unexcused absence after the third absence.* Class is 3 hours in duration (with breaks). Students who arrive late or leave early will have their class time documented and every third hour will count as an absence.

If you need accommodations due to a disability please contact Chantonette Lyles, Associate Director of Disability Support Services, Fenster Hall Room 260 to discuss your specific needs. A Letter of Accommodation Eligibility from the Disability Support Services office authorizing your accommodations will be required.

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|-------------------|--|
| January 21/22     | Class 01: Intro / Audio Handout 1  |
| January 28/29     | Class 02: Audio Handout 2  |
| February 4/5      | Class 03: Audio Handout 3 / Intro to Effects   |
| February 11/12    | Class 04: Adobe Audition / Sound Design / Project #2 proposal due                    |
| February 18/19    | Class 05: Sound Design / Field Recording / Project #1 begins (due in 2 weeks)        |
| February 25/26    | Class 06: Field Recording / Project #2 Lab   |
| March 3/4         | Class 07: Project #1 due / Project #2 Lab / Project #3 proposal due                  |
| March 10/11       | Class 08: MIDTERM EXAM   |
| March 17/18       | Class 09: Spring Break, no class * Project #2 is due the day before the next class * |
| March 24/25       | Class 10: Project #2 Presentation & Critique   |
| March 30 /April 1 | Class 11: Audio / Music Production   |
| April 7/8         | Class 12: Project #3 Lab   |
| April 14/15       | Class 13: Project #3 Lab * Project #3 is due the day before the next class *         |
| April 21/22       | Class 14: Project #3 Presentation & Critique   |
| April 28/29       | Class 15: FINAL EXAM PROJECT   |

If a class is cancelled due to an emergency, you will receive an email from me. Otherwise assume we have class.

**All students are required to send me an email with their preferred contact information and studio room number / location.** This must be received before the third class. **During the first or second week, I will send an email requesting confirmation that you are receiving my emails.** A reply must be received before the next class.

Although I have an NJIT email address, **the best way to contact me is at [bruce@bruceamiller.us](mailto:bruce@bruceamiller.us).** All emails to either address must have a subject that starts with your class (“NJIT DD402” or “NJIT DD404”).

### **GRADE CALCULATIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS:**

1. Deadline timeliness and proper format of all submissions (proper email subjects, proper naming of all files, etc)
2. Homework assignments including (but not limited to) contact info, essays describing sound observations (quietest sound & ambient spaces),
3. FIRST Sound Design assignment from supplied clips.
4. SECOND and THIRD Projects with the following requirements:
  1. Pre-project proposal including lists of all anticipated sounds
  2. Progress report
  3. Submitted final file
  4. Submitted original footage
  5. Submitted session file (from whatever program was used)
5. All assessments including Midterm & Final
6. Attendance as per NJIT NJSOA Student Guide Book

\*\* The THIRD project is encouraged to enhance student projects for other classes (for example, creating sound design for an animation or video project). HOWEVER, the project must involve complicated enough sound design to be used. The SECOND and THIRD projects require a proposal and teacher approval.

### **UPDATES FOR REMOTE LEARNING**

1. Demonstration lectures are now being delivered via Zoom (with recorded).
2. Project critiques will take place by posting exported projects into Google Classroom with critiques added as comments for each post. This gives the added benefit of students being able to refer back to critiques.
3. The Final Exam will remain a timed project. It will be posted along with all required files and the exported version to be graded must be delivered within 3 hours.