RTD 463 Spring 2016
Sound Art & Practice

Class Meetings: Tuesdays, 2PM-4:50 PM, COM1016

Instructors
Phylis Johnson, PhD, Professor
Office in Main RTD Dept. RM 1050
Mondays, 10AM to Noon; Tuesdays, 11AM-2PM
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Spring 2016 Semester
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday Holiday - Monday, January 18
Semester Classes Begin Tuesday, January 19
Spring Vacation Saturday, March 12, 12:00 Noon through Sunday, March 20
Honors Day, Saturday, April 9
Final Exams, Monday, May 9 through Friday, May 13
Commencement, Saturday, May 14, 2016

Course Description (3 credits, undergraduate elective): Advanced concepts, designs and applications of sound as art and practice across time, space, and media.

Objectives: To explore the philosophies, methods, and perceptions of sound aesthetics, archiving, and technologies among scholars, artists and practitioners; To effectively further develop “aural” storytelling skills and work collaboratively across traditional and new media technologies and environments; and to become innovators of sound art and practice. Four projects progressively develop critical skill levels in production quality, content development and exhibition. Adherence to ethical practice and intellectual copyright regulation are expected.

Mandatory Recording Equipment: Headphones (1/4” adapter); Storage Drive, Batteries. All projects and related content must be recorded on professional digital recorders and ProTools, or equivalent.
Required Text:  **Out on the Wire: The Storytelling Secrets of the New Masters of Radio**  
http://jessicaabel.com/  
http://jessicaabel.com/podcast/  

Reference links:  
http://soundstudiesblog.com/  
http://soundboxproject.com/index.html  
Other readings provided via LINKS and PDFs when relevant.  
Open Source Sites (i.e. Internet Archive, Jamendo, Pond7)  

**Course Outline (Subject to Revision)**

**Section ONE:**  The Podcast Series, Sound Story & Community. (Weeks 1-7)  
Project 1:  **My Pod, Our World, Part 1 & Part 2 (Social Transmission)**  
This project focuses on creating, producing and exhibiting a ‘sound series’ that provokes the ‘human’ experience as informed, shaped, and mediated by science, technology, society and history.  **Creative Non-Fiction.**  Graded on production quality, continuity (transitions, editing), and content (creativity/originality and coherence/significance of message).  
Due March 1.  

**Section TWO:**  Sound Art & Invention (Weeks 8-13)  
Project 2:  **Contra-Band: Breaking Form.**  Reimagine/repurpose traditional media and methods to tell your story.  Graded on production quality, continuity (transitions, editing), and content (originality and coherence/significance of message/research).  **Due April 12.**  

**Section THREE:**  Sound Seminar & Portfolio (Weeks 14-16)  
Project 3:  **Student Seminar & Showcase.**  Showcase sound work on a blog or website.  
Participate in a student exhibition and conference.  Based on the course text, but specific theme(s) to be decided as a class.  It is strongly recommended that students maintain a journal with reading and listening notes from class discussions and outside assignments (class text, blog readings & listening; and other sources).  Turning in that journal to the instructor at the semester’s end may earn a student up to 50 points on the seminar project.  

Assignments:  All production projects require original title (with your name and project type and number), 50 word abstract (summary), and source list.  All projects must be pre-approved by instructor(s). Post all projects to server. Each project may have other requirements.  
Anticipate many additional lab/field hours outside of class time working on assignments, as is typical of a course like this.
CUMULATIVE POINTS (1000 TOTAL)
Project 1, Parts 1 & 2: The Podcast Series, Story & Community (200 points each/400 total)
Project 2: Contra-Band: Breaking Form (200 points)
Project 3: Sound Seminar. Theme to be announced. (200 points)
Project 4: Final Blog & Portfolio (200 points)

DEDUCTIVE POINTS
Attendance: (- 25 points lecture; -50 points lab: for unexcused absences) 2 free days.
Excused absences at the discretion of professor and in adherence to university policy.
Participation: mandatory, and may impact grade by one letter if student does not actively engage in class discussion, lab work, outside readings, etc.). Weekly listening & readings.
Finals Week: A course grade deduction of 100 points will be calculated when missing the Final Session without University Excused Absence.

Other Policies: All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course with a D. FORMAT and STYLE COUNTS! All projects must be CLEARLY and PROFESSIONALLY LABELED. All scripts must be TYPED and APPROPRIATELY FORMATTED. CONTENT MATTERS: All projects must be free of obscene & indecent language/images and racial/ethnic/gender slurs. Ask instructor regarding questionable content BEFORE you turn in the assignment.
Late Grades: 30-50% percent off. Typically Late grades start at C-. No late projects accepted 10 days after the assignment unless approved by the instructor. Final Projects cannot be accepted after the due date. Exceptions require instructor approval. Please let me know early on if you anticipate conflicts, or as soon as possible in order to avoid major issues that will impact your completion of this course with a passing grade.
Letter Grade – Point Range Equivalent
A = 900-100; B = 800-899; C = 700-799; D = 600-699; F = Below 600
Building Emergency Response Protocols for Syllabus:

University’s Emergency Procedure Clause:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on BERT’s website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety’s website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guideline pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. **It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency.** The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.

**Students With a Disability:**

Instructors and students in the class will work together as a team to assist students with a disability safely out of the building. Students with a disability will stay with the instructor and communicate with the instructor what is the safest way to assist them.

**Tornado:**

During the spring semester we have a **Storm Drill.**

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to a safe area of the basement. No one will be allowed to stay upstairs. Stay away from windows. The drill should not last more than 10 minutes. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. Students need to **be quiet in the basement** as the BERT members are listening to emergency instructions on handheld radios and cannot hear well in the basement.

**Fire:**

During the fall semester we have a **Fire Drill.**

Pick up your belongings and your instructor will lead you to either the North or South parking lot depending on what part of the building your class is in. You must stay with your instructor so he/she can take roll. As soon as the building is all clear, you will be allowed to return to class.
These drills are to train instructors and the Building Emergency Response Team to get everyone to a safe place during an emergency.

Bomb Threat:

If someone calls in a bomb threat, class will be suspended and students will be asked to pick up their belongings, evacuate the building and leave the premises. Do not leave anything that is yours behind. We will not allow anyone back into the building until the police and bomb squad give us an all clear. **DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONES.** Some bombs are triggered by a cell phone signal.

Shooter in the Building:

If it is safe to leave, move to a safe area far from the building away from where the shooter is located. If anyone has any information about the shooter, please contact the police after they have gone someplace safe. Put in your cell phone the SIU Dept. of Public Safety 618-453-3771. If there is a shooter on campus you can call this number to report it. There will be a lot of calls going to 911 and the SIU Police will get your call using 618-453-3771. It is good to have this number listed in your cell phone for all emergencies here on campus.

If it is not safe to leave, go into a room, lock the door and turn out the lights. Everyone should spread out and not huddle together as a group. Don't stand in front of the door or in line of fire with the door. Students' chair and desks should be piled in front of the glass and door as a barricade and the teacher's desk, podium and anything movable can be pushed against the door. This is intended to slow down any attempts to enter the classroom. If it looks like the shooter is persistent and able to enter, make a lot of noise and have the students use everything in their backpacks to throw at the shooter to distract him.

Silence all cell phones after one person in the room calls the police and informs them of their location and how many people are in the room. **Be quiet and wait for the police to arrive.** The police are looking for one or more shooters, and they have no way of knowing if the shooter is in the room people are hiding in. For this reason, when the police enter the room, no one should have anything in his/her hands and each person **MUST** raise his/her hands above his/her head.

Earthquake:

In the event of an earthquake, you are advised to take cover quickly under heavy furniture or crouch near an interior wall or corner and cover your head to avoid falling debris. Outside the building are trees and power lines and debris from the building itself that you will need to stay away from. In the building, large open areas like auditoriums are the most dangerous. Do not
try to escape on a stairway or elevator. Do not hide under a stairway. We do not recommend that you stand in a doorway because the door could shut from the vibrations and crush your fingers trapping you there.

**Rave Mobile Safety Alert System:**

We recommend that you sign up for the Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. It is a new system that replaces the WENS system to alert you through emergency text messages on your cell phone and emails for emergencies on campus, weather reports and emergency school closures. You have to sign up. If you were signed up for WENS it does not roll over. You have to sign up for Rave Mobile Safety Alert System. Go to Saluki Net, go to my records tab, under SIUC Personal Records, click on View My SIUC Student Records, Under Main Menu click on Personal Information, click on View and Update Addresses and Phones, in the middle of the page click [Update Addresses and Phones], under phones click Primary: This will take you to Update Addresses and Phones – Update/Insert, under primary phone number for this address put in your cell phone and submit. For more information, visit dps.siu.edu, contact SalukiTech at 453-5155 or salukitech@siu.edu.

**CPR/Defibrillator and First Aid Class:**

If you would like to take a CPR/Defibrillator and/or First Aid class, contact LaVon Donley-Cornett, lavong@siu.edu or call 453-7473.

**Women's Self Defense Classes** are offered to female students faculty and staff by the Department of SIU Public Safety. For more information call the Department of SIU Public Safety 453-3771.