RTD 463
Sound Art and Practice II

Professor: Jay Needham  T.A. Nick Nylen
E-mail: jneedham63@gmail.com  E-mail: nicholasnylen@gmail.com
Office: Communications 1050D  Office: Comm. 0012
Office Hours: Tues. 10:00 am -12:00 pm  Wed. & Thurs. 12:00 -3:00pm.
Wed: 10:00 am -12:00 pm & 1:30pm- 3:30pm

Class Time: Tuesday 2:00-4:50 pm Comm. 1016
Supplemental studio sessions TBA.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: In a field as diverse as the audio arts, the role of the artist/producer has evolved in a complex series of changes that have created a new kind of content creator and curator. Our semester will be drawn into four distinct units with each unit having its own assigned readings, discussions and creative assignment. In this class we will explore artistic trends and challenge our own creativity while at the same time experimenting with methods of collaboration and exhibition. Older audio technologies such as 78’s and reel to reel recording will be explored from numerous artistic and cultural/historical frameworks. This course also features a unit on sound conservation and preservation and introduces students to practices of meta data as well as the emerging field of media archeology. This is a course that demands a high level of creative input from the student both in and out of class. You are required to work many hours outside our regular meeting time. You are responsible for a final project and this component of the semester’s work is your opportunity to refine an idea and create a sound work that is representative of a capstone experience.

COURSE GOALS-EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES
To obtain and demonstrate creative proficiencies relating to the creation of stereo sound, surround sound and additional techniques for recorded sound and audile perception. To express, through sound, a signature sound (authorship) and to create a portfolio of original creative works. To gain an understanding of how to contextualize creative sound practice in today’s culture.
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS: Assignments for this course are to be placed on the server on the due date of the assignment. One individual meeting with the instructor during the course of the semester is required. Required readings are to be assigned throughout the semester. Each assignment for the class will have a technical and aesthetic component; high marks will result if students are able to achieve a level of artistic integrity that supersedes technical mastery. All files are to be stereo, AIFF 16-bit audio at 44.1KHZ. Two meetings with the instructor during the course of the semester are required. No late assignments will be accepted or graded.

ASSIGNMENT EVALUATION:
The assignments, studio sessions and critiques are specifically sequenced to provide you with a technical, aesthetic and verbal skill set. You will be graded on these aspects of your work as you progress through the semester. Personal one on one critiques are an excellent way to obtain additional feedback on your work, see me for meeting times and also remember that meeting with the class Teaching Assistant is also advised.

PARTICIPATION - CRITIQUES AND ETIQUETTE
This course offers a forum for critique. These sessions have been designed so that students gain verbal feedback from myself, the T. A. and peers enrolled in the course. Active verbal participation is required in all class discussions and critique sessions. In-class participation counts for 100 points (refer to the point structure below). Critiques can be rigorous, and I strive to maintain an atmosphere of productivity. Bring your best ideas and honest reactions to these sessions.

WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS POLICY
I allow students to use laptops and other electronic devices in my classrooms, but they are only to be used for in-class research and or note taking. Texting is not allowed during our meeting times. If I observe that your use of wireless technology becomes disruptive or distracting to myself or students enrolled in the course, I may ask you to stop.

TEXT
Readings are provided for this course and will be on our server space.

ATTENDANCE
Two excused absences will be allowed per student over the course of the semester. Each absence after two will result in the reduction of the grade by a letter grade.
GRADING (1000 pts.)
Unit 1 Stereo Perceptions and Expressions 150
Unit 2 Sound Conservation and Media Archeology 200
Unit 3 Mixed Dimensions 200
Unit 4 Final Project 350
Participation 100

REQUIREDS MATERIALS
Headphones (required)
External Firewire drive (required)
Flash Card (4-8 gig or greater)
Blank CD-R media for backup (required)