

GT 2801

Intro to Podcasting

Audio as Scholarship, Communication, and Creative Platform: Introduction to Podcasting

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45 pm

Fully online course (class session in BlueJeans through Canvas)

Instructor:

Charlie Bennett, GT Library Charlie.Bennett@library.gatech.edu

Office hours (by appointment -- I am happy to schedule a chat with you if you need it)

Course Purpose

This course will explore the podcast as a medium for creative expression and academic discourse. Students will consider popular and niche podcasts to develop critical assessments of podcast structures, format, and aesthetics, along with learning audio editing techniques, sound design, recording techniques, and composition strategies for audio projects.

Course Learning Outcomes

The goal of the course is to familiarize students with the production of podcasts from show conception to final audio file. Upon successful completion of Intro to Podcasting, you will:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of podcast composition
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of sound design and audio production
3. Identify effective and compelling rhetorical strategies for audio communication
4. Create a plan to launch a podcast of your own

<p>Aug 18</p>	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Introductions and Icebreakers</p> <p>Arc of the class</p>	<p>Download Audacity, the free audio editor, onto your computer to use next class.</p> <p>http://audacityteam.org/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2004/audacity/</p>
<p>Aug 20</p>	<p>Recording, editing, and producing workshop</p>	<p>Audio Exercise : Editing Speech (Due Aug 23)</p> <p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/2001/digital-editing-basics/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2016/p-pops-plosives/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2004/tweaking-levels-voice-processing/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2013/signal-noise/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2017/sounding-like-yourself/</p> <p>https://www.library.gatech.edu/gadgets</p>
<p>Aug 25</p>	<p>"Writing" audio projects</p>	<p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/2018/dont-write-tell/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2015/writing-out-of-tape/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2015/radio-writing-with-alex-chadwick/</p>

<p>Aug 27</p>	<p>Interviews and soundbites</p>	<p>Audio exercise: Interviews (Due Aug 30)</p> <p>Sound Design prep assignment (Due Sep 1)</p> <p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/2012/the-burning-question/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2019/see-it-on-the-radio/</p> <p>https://transom.org/tag/interviewing/</p>
<p>Sep 1</p>	<p>Aesthetics and sound design</p>	<p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/tag/sound-design/</p> <p><i>Lost Highway</i></p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdIILn52Oak</p> <p>Listen to the <i>Sound Design Clip mp3</i> in Files</p> <p>before you watch this video:</p> <p><i>Trois couleurs: Bleu</i></p> <p>www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6DSGZZn-Ac</p>
<p>Sep 3</p>	<p>Using music</p>	<p>Audio exercise: Sound Design (Due Sep 6)</p> <p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/tag/using-music/</p>

<p>Sep 8</p>	<p>What is a podcast's purpose?</p>	<p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/2018/podcast-mindset-part-1/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2018/podcast-mindset-part-2/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2014/the-business-of-podcasts/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2017/good-idea-podcast-bad-idea-podca</p> <p>https://transom.org/2018/stopping-a-podcast/</p>
<p>Sep 10</p>	<p>Communicating Complex Ideas in Sound</p>	<p>Audio exercise: Communicating Complex Ideas in Sound (Due 9/15)</p> <p>Post your questions for the September 15th class in the discussion board.</p> <p>Links:</p> <p>https://transom.org/2015/producing-science-stories-with-a-scientist/</p> <p>https://transom.org/2006/david-kestenbaum/</p> <p>https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolab/episodes/2015-09-08-colors</p>

Sep 15	Critical Listening and Leftover Questions	<p>Links: https://transom.org/2015/jessica-abel/ https://transom.org/2020/lewis-raven-wallace/</p> <p>Be sure to post questions to the Discussion in Canvas for the op Q&A in this session</p>
Sep 17	Planning Your Podcast	<p>This session will be a guided ideation activity to create a plan f pilot episode of a hypothetical podcast series.</p>

Assignments:

The course is evaluated on a letter-grade scale, based on points. Points are awarded for attendance, completion of audio exercises, and weekly participation in discussions.

Assignment	Date	Weight (Percentage, points, etc)
Attendance	Weekly	50 points
Audio Exercises	Weeks 2-5	40 points
Discussion Participation	Weekly	10 points

Class Participation

Attendance and participation in class is required. To receive full points, login to class ON TIME (use the BlueJeans links), stay the entire duration of the class, and participate actively in class activities and asynchronous discussions. If you miss a class and feel you have a good reason (for example, sickness or family emergency), you must provide official documentation to avoid losing points. **60 points total (50 attendance, 10 discussions)**

Weekly audio exercises will put into practice the audio concepts you will apply to the final project. You can earn 10 points for each exercise due at the end of weeks 1-4. Weekly exercises will be due Sunday at 11:59PM, and your instructor will provide feedback by the following Friday. **40 points total (10 points each assignment)**

1. Week 1: Editing speech
2. Week 2: Interviewing
3. Week 3: Sound design
4. Week 4: Communicating complex ideas in sound

Late assignments

Late work will be accepted until the first class day after their due date.

Grading

Grades will be based on the following scale:

Grade	Total points earned
A	90-100

B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	< 60

Course Reference

This is a "no-cost materials" course and all reading material will be available open access or through the library e-book collection.

Additional Materials/Resources

Students are encouraged to download Audacity to their own computers. This audio editor is Open Source and work with Mac/Linux/Windows.

Course Expectations & Guidelines

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Attendance and/or Participation

Attendance and participation are graded and recommended. If you cannot attend a class, please let the instructor know in advance, so that we can work out an alternative access to the workshop materials. Attendance is required for the last week of class.

Extensions & Late Assignments

This is a five-week class, and each phase builds from the prior week, so it is not recommended to fall behind. No extensions will be granted for the written and audio components of the group podcast assignment.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Deliverables
Week 1	Intro to Audio Production	Attendance, Audio Exercise
Week 2	Structure, Recording, and Editing	Attendance, Audio Exercise
Week 3	Formats and Aesthetics of Podcasts	Attendance, Audio Exercise
Week 4	Podcasting as a Practice	Attendance, Audio Exercise
Week 5	Critical Listening and Future Plans	Attendance

Week 1 audio exercise: Editing Speech

Record yourself talking for three to five minutes, then edit that down to a succinct, clear clip of no more than 90 seconds.

Use the best mic possible, get clean audio, remove your verbal tics, make it sound natural, and be brave.

Upload the finished clip as an MP3 to Canvas.

Week 2 audio exercise: Interviewing

Record an interview between yourself and your partner (using the record function on any video-calling app). Agree on a topic beforehand. Cut the interview into a clip no more than ten minutes long that delivers a compelling version of the interview.

Listen to your interview subject and help the listener understand what you're talking about.

Upload the clip as an MP3 to Canvas.

Week 3 audio exercise: Sound Design

Record yourself reading a short prose excerpt (no more than 100 words) and create a sound design to complement the excerpt (cf. the Moby Dick piece played in class). Use found sound, generated sound, music, practical effects, or whatever else you like to create your sound design.

Choose an evocative excerpt, let your imagination guide your design, and have fun.

Upload your piece as an MP3 to Canvas.

Week 4 audio exercise: Communicating Complex Ideas in Sound

Choose a complex idea from your major or research to explain in a short (no more than 4 minutes) audio piece. "Complex" implies that background information is required to understand the idea, that it is more than an explanation of a phenomenon, and that it is not obvious. Think of something that you needed extra time to understand when you learned about it.

Create an audio piece that communicates that complex idea to a listener who is not familiar with your major or research. Use any technique we have explored in the class in your audio piece and try out new ones.

Choose an idea that interests you, experiment with your audio, and entertain yourself.

Upload your piece as an MP3 to Canvas.

Sound Design class session prep

Before our September 1st class on Sound Design, there are two short videos to watch and a sound clip to hear. Take a few notes while you watch and listen, as this will inform our discussion in class.

First, watch this clip from the David Lynch film *Lost Highway* (content note: some profane language, smoking, drinking)

[https://www.youtube.com/ \(Links to an external site.\)watch?v=AdIII52Oak](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AdIII52Oak)

Pay attention to how the music, dialogue, and background noise changes throughout the clip. What feelings do these changes evoke in you? How do the changes inform the narrative?

Next, listen to the *Sound Design Clip mp3* in Files.

This is the audio from a film. What do you hear? What do you picture? Is there a story being told?

Finally, watch the clip from the film. What matched in your listening? What surprised you?

Trois couleurs: Bleu [www.youtube.com/ \(Links to an external site.\)watch?v=o6DSGZZn-Ac](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6DSGZZn-Ac)