

**The Art Institute of California – Orange County  
Course Syllabus**

**Course Number:** DF1122-B

**Course Title:** Fundamentals of Audio

**Class Meetings:** Wednesdays 12:30 – 4:30 PM, Room A138

**Session/Year:** Winter 2012

**Instructor Name:** Glenn Bach

**Email Address:** gbach@edmc.edu

**Instructor Availability Outside of Class:** By appointment.

## **FUNDAMENTALS OF AUDIO**

**Course Description:** This course addresses the principles of recording sound and covers the study of sound characteristics, basic acoustics, ergonomics, and basic techniques for field recording. The role of sound in media production is explained and examined.

<b>Course Length:</b>	11 Weeks
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	44 Hours
<b>Lecture:</b>	2 Hours per week
<b>Lab:</b>	2 Hours per week
<b>Credit Values:</b>	3 Credits

**Quarter Credit Hour Definition:**

A quarter credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

- (1) One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for 10-12 weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
- (2) At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

**Course Competencies:**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to:

*Exercise proper audio recording techniques for media production:*

- Measure and analyze sound levels.
- Determine and adjust signal and noise ratio.
- Choose appropriate microphones for a given production.
- Demonstrate the ability to employ digital sound composition techniques.
- Operate a mixer and/or console for audio processing.

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- Employ proper handling techniques for the use and maintenance of audio cable and microphones.
- Differentiate and select appropriate recording devices.
- Perform audio recording for studio and field production.

**Course Prerequisite(s):** None

**Required Text:** None.

**Required Website(s): Class Website:**

[www.glennbach.com/ai/df1122\\_syllabus.html](http://www.glennbach.com/ai/df1122_syllabus.html)

**Materials and Supplies:** Reliable method for transporting and storing files; headphones; notebook; pen/pencil

**Estimated Homework Hours:** 4 Hours per Week

**Technology Needed:** Access to computer lab; AI student account and password; Any and all software and/or hardware required to compose your project, including: Access to microphones and recording devices (can be checked out from Media Cage.)

**Assessment Criteria & Methods of Evaluation:**

10%	Soundwalk (100 points)
10%	Sonic Snapshots (100 points)
20%	Sonic Portrait (200 points)
10%	Reflections (100 points)
10%	Quizzes (100 points)
10%	Midterm Exam (100 points)
10%	Final Exam (100 points)
20%	Attendance and Participation (200 points)

TOTAL

100% (1000 points)

**Grading Scale:**

All assignments must have clear criteria and objectives to meet. All students shall be treated equitably. It will be that student's right to know his/her grade at any reasonable point that information is requested by that student. The criteria for determining a student's grade shall be as follows (on a percentage of total points basis):

A	1000-920
A-	919-900
B+	899-881
B	880-820
B-	819-800
C+	799-781
C	780-720
C-	719-700
D+	699-681
D	680-620

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F 619 or below

### **Late Assignment Policies**

- All work must be received by the set deadlines, at the beginning of class.
- On-time projects may be revisited with instructor approval.
- Assignments must be posted to Dropbox.com by the beginning of class on the due date.
- For any late projects, 1 point will be deducted from the Deadline Grade for each 24-hour period past the due date.
- No late Sonic Portraits will be accepted under any circumstances.
- No Make-Ups will be allowed for missed Quizzes.
- Meeting deadlines is a major part of being a professional; technical problems, computer issues, lost data, or job/personal conflicts are not legitimate excuses for missing a deadline.

### **Classroom Policies:**

- No food allowed in computer labs at any time. Drinks in recloseable bottles allowed in classroom.
- If student elects to eat/drink outside class or lab door, missed time is recorded as absent.
- Attendance is taken on a regular basis. Tardiness or absence is recorded in 15-minute increments.
- Break times are scheduled by the instructor at appropriate intervals.
- No private software is to be brought to lab or loaded onto school computers.
- No software games are allowed in lab (unless in course curriculum).
- Headphones are required if listening to music in computer labs. No headphones are allowed during lecture.
- To receive special accommodations for a documented disability, the student must present their letter of accommodation to the instructor by the end of the first day of class. This letter should be obtained each quarter from the Student Affairs department. Any resulting class performance problems that may arise for those who do not identify their needs will not receive any special grading considerations.
- ID Badges must be visible at all times on campus.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

The Art Institute of California – Orange County is committed to providing qualified students with a disability an equal opportunity to access the benefits, rights and privileges of school services, programs and activities. The Art Institute of California – Orange County provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities.

Accommodation requests should be submitted as far in advance as possible. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Student Services Department to initiate this process (714-338-1314). The Student Services Department will assist qualified students with disabilities in acquiring reasonable and appropriate accommodations.

### **Attendance Policy:**

Successful completion of a course is dependent upon regular attendance in the classroom. Critical information is delivered through lecture, critique and student

interaction. Missing more than 20% of the course hours (or 2 weeks) is fundamentally prohibitive to student success.

It is strongly recommended that any student who – for ANY reason – misses more than 2 weeks worth of instructional hours meet with their instructor for an evaluation. The instructor reserves the right to determine the feasibility of the student potential for avoiding a failing grade and successfully demonstrating all of the gradable course competencies within the class time remaining. If the instructor determines that the student still retains the potential to demonstrate all of the gradable course competencies then the student will be granted the option of attempting a passing grade. If an evaluation meeting has not taken place before 30% or 3 weeks of absence, the student can receive a failing grade for the course.

**Student Conduct Policy:**

The Art Institute of California – Orange County expects its students and employees to conduct themselves in a professional manner at all times. In addition, the Art Institute has a strict policy which disallows sexual harassment of either students or employees. All students or employees are encouraged to report any professional or sexual misconduct to the Director of Student Services.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty while pursuing their studies at The Art Institute. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: plagiarism and cheating, misuse of academic resources or facilities, and misuse of computer software, data, equipment or networks. **Plagiarism** is the use (copying) of another person's ideas, words, visual images, or audio samples, presented in a manner that makes the work appear to be the student's original creation. All work that is not the student's original creation, or any idea or fact that is not "common knowledge," must be documented properly to avoid even accidental infractions of the honor code. **Cheating** is to gain an unfair advantage on a grade by deception, fraud, or breaking the rules set forth by the instructor of the class. Cheating may include but is not limited to: copying the work of others; using notes or other materials when unauthorized; communicating to others during an exam; and any other unfair advantage as determined by the instructor.

**Student Success Center:**

Faculty will be available during office hours to share knowledge, engage in dialogue and/or give advice and guidance to our student body in the Student Success Center located in Building C (Room C226). Students may meet with faculty during their office hours by scheduling an appointment with the faculty member, or by consulting the Student Success Center schedule posted outside of Room C226.

**Commitment to Excellence – Reading/Writing/Comprehension:**

While the principal goal of this course is the acquisition of knowledge in the subject area, students should be aware that The Art Institute of California – Orange County requires that research on a particular topic, and clear and effective writing be an integral part of the learning process.

**Library Assignment:**

All students will need to utilize the Library for research and reference throughout the quarter. The Library is a valuable source for finding design ideas that will be needed for

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this course, i.e.: inspiration and design fundamentals for mid-term and final projects; locating popular trends in design, illustration and photography; referencing past award winning designs which may be used as a guide; identifying benchmarks or referencing competent design works.

Library Web URL: [http://gwd301.aisites.com/Al/ai\\_library\\_main.htm](http://gwd301.aisites.com/Al/ai_library_main.htm).

**Student Art Work:**

All student work, which has not already been returned during the quarter, will be available for pickup no later than 5:00 pm, Monday of the first week of break. Any work NOT picked up by that date and time will be discarded unless other arrangements have been made. Students must take responsibility for their art work.

***Suggested Weekly Outline (see online syllabus for current information)***

***www.glennbach.com/courses.html***

- (WEEK 1) SEMINAR: Course Overview  
LECTURE: Acoustic Ecology  
SEMINAR: Soundwalk Overview  
LAB: Soundwalk  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 2) LECTURE: Sound Fundamentals 1  
SEMINAR: Sonic Snapshots Overview  
LAB: Zoom H2  
LAB: Audacity 1  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 3) LECTURE: Sound Fundamentals 2, 3  
LAB: Field Recordings  
LAB: Audacity 2  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 4) LECTURE: Signal/Noise/Flow  
SEMINAR: Sonic Portrait Overview  
LAB: Audacity 3  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 5) MIDTERM EXAM  
LECTURE: Digital Audio 1  
LAB: Open Lab  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 6) SEMINAR: Sonic Snapshots Crit  
SEMINAR: Sonic Portraits Review  
LAB: Open Lab  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 7) LECTURE: Digital Audio 2  
SEMINAR: Sonic Portrait Brainstorming  
LAB: Open Lab  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details
- (WEEK 8) LECTURE: Microphones 1, 2  
SEMINAR: Sonic Portrait Brainstorming  
LAB: Open Lab  
HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details

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(WEEK 9)      LECTURE: Mixing 1, 2  
                 LAB: Open Lab  
                 HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details

(WEEK 10)    LECTURE: Monitoring  
                 LAB: Open Lab  
                 HOMEWORK: See online syllabus for details

(WEEK 11)    FINAL EXAM  
                 SEMINAR: Sonic Portrait Crit  
                 LECTURE: Summation  
                 HOMEWORK: None