

## COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE PREFIX/NO: **RTV 101**

COURSE TITLE: **Audio Techniques**

LEC HRS/WEEK: 2.0

LAB HRS/WEEK: 3.0

CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER: 5.0 [DL ATTENDANCE/VA STATEMENT](#) [TEXTBOOK INFORMATION](#)

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course covers the introduction to the tools and processes involved in an audio production, including basic training in the operation of sound recording and playback systems.

## COURSE COMPETENCIES:

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

- Use and operate audio tape recorders, of various formats
- Operate audio mixers
- Demonstrate basic electronic editing techniques
- Select and use appropriate microphones
- Apply audio in video production
- Utilize the basic terminology of video and related audio production

## MINIMAL STANDARDS:

Given audio equipment representing that commonly used in production, the student will demonstrate the ability to perform all major record and playback functions necessary to basic audio recording and editing, to standards and guidelines provided by the instructor.

Given a choice of microphone types and representative situations, the student will demonstrate conventional mic selection and placement according to instructor-provided guidelines.

Given common video production situations, the student will be able to demonstrate the ability to assist in primary audio-related functions (microphone connection, mixing, cueing, monitoring, etc.), to generally accepted professional standards.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are responsible for demonstrating acceptable performance of competencies. Supporting this goal are the following requirements:

## ATTENDANCE

Students will be bound by the policies stated in the York Technical College Student Handbook. Students must attend 80% of the hours assigned the class for a semester to receive credit for the course.

## ACADEMIC HONESTY

"York Technical College adheres to the South Carolina TECH Student Code, approved by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education on March 13, 1974 (revised last April 25, 1984). Copies of this code are available in the Library and from Student Services. ...Any student caught cheating or involved in any other academic dishonesty will be given a grade of zero and will be subject to further disciplinary action."

## DEPARTMENTAL EXPECTATIONS

Student-provided portable cassette recorder suitable for field interviewing (see instructor for details).

As in the work place, the student should call the instructor (or designee) in advance of an absence or tardy, if at all possible.

If a student misses a test because of illness or emergency, the student will be expected to make up the test at the earliest possible date. Students with unexcused absences during tests will be allowed to make up the test at the discretion of the instructor.

Regular participation in class activities.

Completing assignments as specified.

## **EVALUATION STRATEGIES/GRADING:**

Student proficiency consists of both knowledge and application. Evaluation is based on a combination of objective testing, projects, and specific performance demonstration. The grading scale will be the standard for York Technical College.

### Grade Points

A 90 - 100  
B 80 - 89  
C 70 - 79  
D 60 - 69  
F 0 - 59

Student performance demonstrations will typically be evaluated by one of two methods:

- The process or product under evaluation will be divided into component parts for observational purposes. Each component is then graded on a checksheet by an observer. Performance grading will be an average of the individual component grades, weighted where appropriate.

- Where the process or product cannot be reasonably divided into components for observation, it will be evaluated as a whole, often in real time. In such cases, the professional judgment of multiple observers will be used whenever possible. The performance grade would then be an average of grades from all observers.

Evaluation will use current professional expectations for entry-level positions as standards. General guidelines for grading performance demonstrations will be:

A = Fully competent; highly consistent performance with little or no supervision; has command of the process.

B = Generally competent; slight supervision required; generally consistent results.

C = Generally functional; moderate supervision and/or correction required; inconsistent performance.

D = Barely workable; needing practice and/or major supervision for acceptable results; exhibits minimal skill development for job function.

F = Unworkable; needs unreasonable time or additional instruction for acceptable results; dangerous to persons, equipment, or production process.

For the purposes of averaging performance demonstration results, letter grades will be converted to numerical grades as follows:

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65
A- = 92	B- = 82	C = 72	D- = 62
A-/B+ = 90	B-/C+ = 80	C-/D+ = 70	F = **

\*\* Actual performance in job-related functions is the basis of the Teleproduction Program. Accordingly, in all courses with specific performance demonstrations, a passing grade in the demonstration is necessary to pass the course. In the event a student fails such a demonstration, at least one make-up opportunity will be provided.

**ENTRY LEVEL SKILLS:**

Minimum program entry requirements, and familiarity with video production techniques reflecting the content of listed prerequisites.

**PREREQUISITES:**

Introduction to Broadcasting (RTV-111) or permission of instructor.

**CO-REQUISITES:**

None.

## **TOPIC/CONTENT OUTLINE:**

- A. Orientation to audio
  - Audio and Acoustics
  - Technical vs Creative decisions
  - common audio sources
  - audio applications in various media
  - technical parameters: frequency and intensity
- B. Audio recording equipment
  - Audio recorders: operations and formats
    - 1/4" reel-to-reel
    - microcassette
    - analog vs digital
    - emerging technologies
  - Microphones: selection and application
    - polar patterns
    - generating elements
    - frequency response
    - other technical characteristics
  - Audio in video production
  - Other audio sources
  - The audio mixer: operation and control
- C. Audio Control: technical and environmental
  - Studio recording environments
  - Location recording
  - Audio levels: maximum level vs minimum distortion
  - Mixing, equalization, channeling
  - Signal flow