COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix, Number, and Title
DAD 222 – Audio Production I: Foundations

Credits
3

University Name
Dakota State University

Academic Term/Year
Fall 2024

Last date to Drop and receive 100% refund
9/5/24

Last date to Withdraw and earn a grade of 'W'
11/8/24

Course Meeting Time and Location
MWF 9:00 AM – 9:50 AM Tunheim Classroom Building 209

Instructor Information

Name
Tate Carson

Office
TCB 305

Phone Number(s)
605-681-6183

Email Address
Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Office Hours
MWF – 11 am - 12 pm, 2:45 - 3:45 pm, T/Th 1 – 2 pm
Please use https://calendly.com/tate-carson/office-hours to book a meeting.

Approved Course Description

Catalog Description
A foundation study of audio recording techniques and digital audio editing. Students learn the signal chain of professional audio mixers and DAWs by dissecting each component and rerouting

it within the chain itself. Topics include microphones, connection types, EQ, dynamic processors, basic mixing, digital manipulation, and output file formats.

Additional Course Information

DAD 222 introduces the fundamentals of music technology in the context of its historical and cultural use. Scientific foundations of acoustics, hearing, digital audio, and technical skills for music production will be addressed. Participants will develop skills-based foundations of music technology through hands-on projects utilizing software applications for different media. The critical discussion will consider the social impact of contemporary and historical instrument design, recording, notation, and media dissemination systems.

Prerequisites

Course Prerequisite(s)

CSC 105

Technology Skills

Basic computer literacy – the ability to navigate files and applications on the Mac platform; knowledge of basic keyboard shortcuts

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students should:

- Demonstrate proficiency with Reaper
- Employ basic digital audio editing, synthesis, recording, and post-production techniques
- Apply the science of sound, hearing, and digital audio technology to sound design methodology and creative practice
- Develop listening/analytical skills that emphasize instrumentation, tonal balance, texture, dynamics, and space

Course Materials

Required Textbook(s)

None

Required Supplementary Materials

- Headphones: Students **must** bring industry-standard headphones to each class.
  Recommended headphones:
  Budget ($28 – 50$): Sennheiser HD206, ATH-M20X
  Midrange ($50-$100): Shure SRH440, Sony, or Sennheiser in this range are good as well
  No earbuds or noise cancellation.

Headphones are also available for rent. Fill out request form here.

Optional Materials

Modern Recording Techniques Ninth Edition by David Miles Huber and Robert E. Runstein

Available as an eBook in the DSU Library

Course Delivery and Instructional Methods

DAD 222 is a project-based course that requires the completion of original sound design works using digital tools accessible in the computer lab.

Communication and Feedback

Preferred Contact Method

Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Email Response Time

I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the school week.

Feedback on Assignments

Within 1-2 weeks of the assignment due date

Evaluation Procedures

Assessments

Attendance/Participation: 30%
Projects: 50%
Final project and proposal: 20%

Final Examination

Friday, December 13, 8 – 10 am

Performance Standards and Grading Policy

90% and above = A
80%-89% = B
70%-79% = C
60% - 69% = D
59% or below = F

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
1	8/26	**Introduction to music technology** • Pretest – what do you already know about music tech? • Sound and hearing • Intro to Reaper • Introduce Project 1: Arranging Clips
2	9/2	**Loops and Mixing** • Saving and Mixing • Loops • Exporting projects • Project 1: Arranging Clips DUE • Intro to recording techniques • Introduce Project 2: Unreliable Product Ad

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
3	9/9	### More recording techniques • 9/2 - Monday: Labor Day - No class • Ad analysis • Recording studio visit • Microphone techniques
4	9/16	No class this week due to conference travel
5	9/23	### Editing Sound Effects • Editing audio in Reaper • Sound effects and music beds • Project 2: Unreliable Product Ad DUE – listen to ads in class
6	9/30	### Effects Plugins • FX Roulette • Effects in Reaper – ReaEQ, ReaFir, ReaComp, etc.
7	10/7	### More effects / sampling / MIDI • Time-based effects – Delay and reverb • Sampling history • MIDI intro • MIDI editing • Multisampling • Alternative sampling methods
8	10/14	### Musique Concrète and Field Recording • Introduce Project 3: Musique Concrète Étude • Zoom recorder demo • Musique Concrète listening session • Lab time
9	10/21	### Sample manipulation tips • 10/14 – Native American Day – No classes • Listening session • Shorter loops to make pitched samples

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
		• Modulation and automation of parameters • Lab time
10	10/28	### Synthesis and MIDI • Project 3: Musique Concrète Étude DUE – listen in class • Electronic sound production • Understanding Envelopes in Synthesis • Synthesis methods - Wavetable, Additive, subtractive, FM Synthesis, AM Synthesis, Physical Modeling • Introduction to Vital Synth
11	11/4	### More Synths • In-class project: Name that Synth Patch • Introduce Project 4: Exploring the Potential of Looped Material in DAW-Based Music Creation • Work on project 4 in class
12	11/11	### More synths and lab time • Project 4 DUE • Listening Day
13	11/18	### Final Project • Introduction to final project • Proposal • 11/11- Veterans Day Holiday Observed - No Classes
14	11/25	Final project work period
15	12/2	Final project work period
16	12/9	Final project work period

Student Success Services and Supports

ADA Accommodations

Dakota State University strives to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and Dakota State University's Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

DSU's Office of Disability Services is located in the Learning Engagement Center and can be contacted by calling 605-256-5121 or emailing dsu-ada@dsu.edu. Students seeking ADA accommodations (such as non-standard note taking or extended time and/or a quiet space taking exams and quizzes) can access the DSU website https://dsu.edu/student-life/disability-services/index.html for additional information and the link to the Disability Services Request Form. You will need to provide documentation of your disability and the ADA Coordinator must confirm the need before officially authorizing accommodations.

DSU Knowledge Base

The DSU Knowledge Base contains links and resources to help students by providing information about the following topics: User Accounts & Passwords, Academic Tools & Resources, Software & Apps Support, WiFi & Network Access, Campus Emergency Alert System, Campus Printing, IT Security & Safe Computing, and the Support Desk (which is there to help both on and off-campus students). The Knowledge Base can be accessed through the link below:

- [DSU Knowledge Base](#)

D2L Support for Students

The D2L Support for Students site is designed to provide DSU students a D2L support resource center that contains user guides, tutorials, and tips for using the D2L learning environment. The D2L Support for Students site can be accessed through the link below:

- [DSU D2L Support Resources for Students](#)

Classroom Policies

Attendance and Make-up Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. After **three** absences, 10 points will be deducted from the attendance grade for each additional absence.

Late work will only be accepted with a documented excuse. Students may redo work they received an undesirable grade on once, but only if they turned in something by the original due date. The deadline for redoing work is a week after the original due date. After this time, no late work will be accepted.

DSU Policies

Complaint Procedure

Dakota State University seeks to resolve student concerns and complaints in a fair and prompt manner. Students may file a complaint using the [DSU Concerns and Feedback form](#). SARA complaints from out-of-state students may be filed using the procedures noted [here](#).

Grade Appeal Policy

If a student believes the final grade assigned in a course was inappropriate, he/she may appeal that grade by filing a formal grade appeal within 15 days of the start of the next academic session. Please see the DSU policy on [Appealing Academic and Administrative Decisions](#) for the required process and form to appeal a final grade.

Student Verification Statement and Proctoring Policy

Federal law requires that universities verify the identity of students when course materials and/or course assessment activities are conducted either partially or entirely online. A student's

Desire2Learn (D2L) login and password are intended to provide the student with secure access to course materials and are also intended to help the university meet this federal mandate. Some DSU Faculty also require the use of a proctor for exams in distance-delivered (Internet) courses and this requirement provides a second level of student identity verification. Students are responsible for any proctoring fees, if applicable. Finally, an instructor who uses web conferencing technology may require students to use a webcam during exams as another means of student identity verification through voice and visual recognition.

<< For online courses, include the verification method used for the course (i.e., proctoring, portfolio, oral exam, student observation, etc.) >>

South Dakota Board of Regents Policy Statements

Freedom in Learning Statement

Under Board of Regents and Regental Institutions policy, student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Discussion and debate are critical to education and professional development. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. While the exploration of controversial topics may be an important component of meeting the student learning outcomes in a course, no student will be compelled or directed to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to any divisive concepts (as defined in SDCL 13-1-67). Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact their home institution to initiate a review of the evaluation.

ADA Statement

The Regental Institutions strive to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and the Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Please note: if your home institution is not the institution you are enrolled at for a course (host institution), then you should contact your home institution's Office of Disability services. The disability services at the home and host institution will work together to ensure your request is evaluated and responded to in a timely manner.

Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct run contrary to the purposes of higher education and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying answers or work done by another student (either on an exam or an assignment), allowing another student to copy from you, and using unauthorized materials during an exam. The Regental Institution's policy and procedures on cheating and academic dishonesty can be found in your home institution's Student Handbook and the governing Board of Regents policies can be found in BOR Policy 2.9.2 and BOR Policy 3.4.1. The consequences for cheating and academic dishonesty are outlined in policy.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources: While Regental Institutions strive to provide access to computer labs and other technology, it is the student's responsibility to ensure adequate access to the technology required for a course. This may include access to a

computer (not Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), webcam, internet, adequate bandwidth, etc. While utilizing any of the information technology systems students, faculty and staff should observe all relevant laws, regulations, BOR Policy 7.1, and any institutional procedural requirements.

Emergency Alert Communication

In the event of an emergency arising on campus under BOR Policy 7.3, your Regental Home Institution will notify the campus community via the emergency alert system. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their information is updated in the emergency alert system. The student's cell phone will be automatically inserted if available and if not, their email address is loaded. Students can at any time update their information the student alert system.