

SM3150: LOCATION SOUND RECORDING

Effective Term

Semester A 2026/27

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Location Sound Recording

Subject Code

SM - School of Creative Media

Course Number

3150

Academic Unit

School of Creative Media (SM)

College/School

School of Creative Media (SM)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

Medium of Instruction

English

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

SM1702 Creative Media Studio I or SM1702A Creative Media Studio IA

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with the fundamentals of recording sound on location. Upon completion of the course, students will have confidence in controlling sound acquisition for field recording and live action camera shooting.

Concise concepts, knowledge and techniques of location recording, from theories to equipment usage will be delivered by professional experts in the industry. Hands on and real world experience will be provided by collaborating with another cinematography class.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Describe the set up of a location sound recording session for most common scenarios.		x	x	
2	Analyze, enumerate and compare various audio content and techniques of field recorded materials.		x	x	
3	Diagnose and correct faulty recording sessions.			x	x
4	Professionally design and execute recording session in a live action camera shooting location.		x	x	x
5	Justify and apply post production techniques to correct problematic audio materials and prepare final deliverable materials synchronised to picture.			x	x
6	Demonstrate general personal insight as a result of critical interpretation of the subject matter		x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lecture / Guided Exploration	Engage with theories and concepts of basic location recording and experiment with different recording equipment.	1	
2	Media Analysis / Discussion	Critical listening to films, animations, and other location recorded materials with critiques and discussions on the audio content.	2, 6	

3	Media Analysis / Problem Solving	Examine recording sessions, diagnose problems and experiment with different scenarios.	3	
4	Project / Simulation / Practice	Collaborate with Cinematography class and carry out recording sessions with industry experts.	4, 6	
5	Problem Solving / Guided Exploration	Correct problematic soundtracks and prepare final audio material to a professional level.	5	

Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("- " for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Assignments	1, 3, 4	30	-	No
2	Critical Listening / Discussion	2, 6	15	-	Yes
3	In Class Exercises	3, 4, 5	10	-	Yes
4	Final Project	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	45	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Examination (%)

0

Minimum Continuous Assessment Passing Requirement (%)

0

Minimum Examination Passing Requirement (%)

0

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

Critical Listening / Discussion

Criterion

This assessment will grade on rationality, clarity and fluency of argument and comment. The threshold of ‘discovery’ lies in a student’s ability to negotiate a position that is informed, defensible, and standing on personal insight.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Rich content, excellent ability to interpret and integrate various resources
- Rigorous organization, coherent structure, systematic composition
- Precision in argument, well defined and reasoned points of view grounded in insightful interpretation of existing literature
- Readiness to respond to peer opinion and other views initiated in class discussion
- Discussion shed light on new dimensions of the issue

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Adequate content, sufficient ability to integrate various resources based on demand

- Reasonable organization with balanced structure and composition
- Clear elaboration of ideas that sticks to the point, with clearly differentiated issues, ability to interpret opinions independently
- Sufficient responses to peer comments to sustain a discussion

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Adequate content, fair ability to integrate various resources based on demand
- Fair organization with adequate structure and composition
- Relevant points made to the subject matter in question
- Ability to respond to other statements and engage in class discussion

Marginal (D)

- Weak content, limited use of resources
- Poor organization, structure and composition
- Relevant points to the subject matter, marginal ability to interpret opinions
- Ability to respond to other comments in simple terms

Failure (F)

- Inadequate content, no/ irrelevant use of resources
- No organization, structure or/and composition
- Irrelevant points to the subject matter, no ability to interpret opinions
- Fail to respond to other comments

Assessment Task

Assignments / Final Project

Criterion

Students should demonstrate ability to utilize primary and secondary sources, execute creative ideas and projects. The threshold of 'discovery' lies in a student's proactively turning theory into praxis, to transform course material into self-owned authorship.

Excellent (A+, A, A-)

- Work has strong affective quality and the articulation of personal styles and signature
- Excellent appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Work raises questions and instill insights about the process of conception, creative strategization and production
- Innovative exploration by combining knowledge from different disciplines (e.g. mathematics, psychology, physics, anthropology, etc.) to create an inter-disciplinary project
- Efficient adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available with constructive adjustment

Good (B+, B, B-)

- Strong appreciation, exploration and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Proper adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available and constructive feedback/ suggestions

Fair (C+, C, C-)

- Basic appreciation and/or application of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Limited ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Marginal (D)

- Marginal appreciation of the aesthetic and expressive qualities of the medium
- Marginal ability to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration

- Limited adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Failure (F)

- No appreciation of the aesthetics and expressive qualities of the medium
- Fail to create project/ work that demonstrate the processes of thinking and creative exploration
- Minimal adjustment of plans and strategies in response to resources (time, space, equipment, etc) available

Additional Information for AR

All A+/A/A- grade assignment should comply with the highest performance of Discovery-oriented learning.

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus

Location recording, field recording, sound recording, acoustics, ambient sound, microphone, location recorder, sound for picture, camera, mixer, preventative maintenance, polar pattern, wireless, impedance matching, routing device, media management, monitoring, headphone.

Reading List

Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Nil

Additional Readings

Title	
1	Bartlett, Bruce. Bartlett, Jenny. On Location Recording Techniques, USA: Focal Press, 1999.
2	Alkin, Glyn. Sound Recording and Reproduction, MA: Focal Press, 2002.
3	Alkin, Glyn. Sound Techniques for Video & TV, MA: Focal Press, 2002.
4	Huber, David, Runstein, Robert E. Modern Recording Techniques, Woburn, MA: Focal Press, 2001.
5	Katz, Bob. Mastering Audio, Burlington, MA: Focal Press, 2002.
6	Bartlett, Bruce. Bartlett, Jenny. Recording Music on Location, USA: Focal Press, 2006.