



## **DIGITAL AUDIO PRODUCTION RTV 360 SYLLABUS**

**Instructor on record:**  
**Dr. John Mark Dempsey**

**Artist In Residence:**

Brad Davis

Spring 2018

Studio location:

Time: 5:30p – 7:45p Tue

Brad Davis Recording Studio  
1132 Main Street  
Commerce, Texas 75428

Office Hours: Email Instructor

Studio: (903) 886-6027

E-mail: [info@braddavisrecordingstudio.com](mailto:info@braddavisrecordingstudio.com)

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

**Text:** Digital Audio Production Fundamentals – in studio text hand out booklet.

**Course description:** Lecture and laboratory experience in digital recording and analogue production fundamentals

**Student Learning Objectives:**

1. Signal Flow Placement Exam
2. Principles of Sound
3. Microphones & Microphone Techniques
4. Analogue Signal Flow Lab
5. Analogue Recording Techniques 1
6. Introduction to digital production (ProTools)
7. Digital Console Fundamentals & signal flow
8. Digital Recording Lab projects
9. Critical Listening (Mix and Master Fundamentals)
10. Professional session etiquette

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Handouts will be used to cover the basics of all our audio production topics, with students organizing chapter discussions. **If you do not have a recording software on your computer, you will not be required to purchase the DAP (Digital Audio Production) Kit from Sweetwater.com at a student discounted rate. You may use Audacity, Adobe Audition, Garage Band etc.** You will complete 4 audio production project assignments and one 3-minute song publishing demo. We will spend class time discussing industry articles and points of interest concerning analogue and digital audio production. Everyone will have a practical exam at the end of the semester, in which you'll have to demonstrate your knowledge and skills.

### Tests

There will be one mid semester test and a final exam and the end of the semester. It will be based on all information presented in the class, including lecture information, and discussions based on information that comes from the class hand outs and your own required Internet research. The tests will contain a variety of true-false, multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank and short-answer questions. I'll give you a review before each of the tests. **Each test will count for 15% of your grade.**

### Lab Projects

There will be five audio recording project assignments. You will have one week to complete each project 1,2,3,4, and two weeks to complete assignment 5. **Each project assignment will count for 10% of your total grade.**

You will be required to use your personal recording equipment for each project. Direct any questions you may have to Brad Davis recording studio general email - [info@braddavisrecordingstudio.com](mailto:info@braddavisrecordingstudio.com). Finished projects can be turned in via BDRStudio drop box (info will be posted on studio RTV360 page link).

### Lab Exercises

3 lab assignments will be issued for the semester on days marked **Lab-calendar-day** (Refer to course calendar). Copies of the assignment exercises will be provided in the studio lab DAP box and as a PDF download on the studio web site. ([braddavisrecordingstudio.com](http://braddavisrecordingstudio.com)). RTV360 link. **Each lab exercise will count for 5% of your grade.**

### Practical exam

During the last week or two before the end of the semester, everyone will take a "practical exam," in which I will ask you to perform a number of routine session procedures necessary for good production. **This will count for 10% of your grade.**

## GRADING STANDARD

- A (100)** – on-time, meets all described standards.  
**B (85)** – on-time, not more than 1 variance from the described standards.  
**C (75)** -- on-time, more than 1 variance from the described standards.

Described standards:

*Must know signal flow;*

*Must know how to operate ProTool software interface.*

*Must know how to properly mic an instrument or vocalist.*

*Must know how to properly manage session data protocol.*

**Extra Credit:** I will give extra credit for participating in SO (studio operations). The formula is: 5% of the grade for the SO duties added to the total points for that part of the class. Example: Your average for the semester is 88. You participate in SO and receive a grade of 90. ( $90 \times .05 = 4.5$ ;  $88 + 4.5 = 92.5$ ). Your new average for RTV 360, rounded off, is 93. Each student will only get one opportunity for the semester to participate in SO.

### Grading:

Tests (2 x 15%)	30%
Project assignments (5 x 10%)	50%
Lab exercises (2 x 5%)	10%
Practical exam (pass/fail)	10%
Total	100%

The practical exam is on a “pass/fail” basis, meaning you get 10 points counted to your final grade if you pass, no points if you don’t. More than one or two failures on tasks you’re asked to do will mean that you failed the exam.

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

### Brad Davis Recording Studio Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenants of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook)

**Students are expected to be polite and courteous at all times.**

**Disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. All students must wash their hands before touching any gear in the studio. Food and drink related messes must be taken care of by the mess maker. No gear / equipment can leave the studio without clearance from lead intern or instructor.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

Disability statement: Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the director of Disability Resources and Services, Halladay Student Services Bldg., Room 303-D. Telephone, (903) 886-5835.

Student Behavior: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct) -- Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures, 12.01.99.R0.05 Guidelines for Content and Distribution of Syllabi: Roles and Responsibilities of Faculty

I maintain the right to make changes as needed, in my judgment, from the stated plans contained in the syllabus for this class. Such changes will be announced to the class.

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

**Gee Library 132**

**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**

**Fax (903) 468-8148**

HYPERLINK "mailto:StudentdisabilityServices@tamU-commerce.edu"

[StudentdisabilityServices@tamU-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentdisabilityServices@tamU-commerce.edu)

## COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR 2018

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments Due</u>
<b>Jan. 16th</b>	<b>Class orientation on Tamuc campus room TBA</b>	
	Meet on campus TBA, Hand out for reading assignment and evaluation.	
<b>Jan. 23rd</b>	<b>Signal Flow basics</b>	<u>Analogue Operations</u>
	Handouts: Defining Focus handout, Session Chart, Signal Flow Terms, simple signal flow test (hooking up small mixer mic and headphones)	
<b>Jan. 30th</b>	<b>Mic App &amp; Tech 1</b>	
	Handouts: Mic types and applications, signal flow lab	
<b>Feb. 06th</b>	<b>Digital Operations</b>	<u>Assignment 1 - Assigned</u>
	Handouts: Mic Applications	
<b>Feb. 13th</b>		<u>Assignment 1 Due</u>
	Recording Session (Ben Montgomery - Artist) Describe professional signal flow (one full page double spaced)	<u>STUDIO LAB DAY 1</u>
<b>Feb. 20th</b>	<b>ProTool Live Recording Song Showcase - NPR Radio Broadcast</b>	
	Setting up live ProTool rig, live sound system for Brad Davis Song Writer Showcase that will air on NPR Radio. Each student will be assigned a team designation and job for the show. <b>Mandatory.</b>	<u>LIVE LAB DAY 2</u>
<b>Feb. 27th</b>	<b>ProTool interface basic flow 2</b>	<u>Assignment 2 - Assigned</u>
		Turn in papers,
<b>Mar. 06th</b>	<b>MID SEMESTER TEST - ProTool Operations</b>	<u>Assignment 2 Due</u>
<b>Mar. 12th</b>	<b>NO CLASS SPRING BREAK</b>	<u>Assignment 3 - via email</u>
<b>Mar. 20th</b>	<b>ProTool Live Recording Song Showcase - NPR Radio Broadcast -</b>	<u>Assignment 3 Due</u>
	Setting up live ProTool rig, live sound system for Brad Davis Song Writer Showcase that will air on NPR Radio. Each student will be assigned a team designation and job for the show. <b>Mandatory</b>	<u>LIVE LAB DAY 3</u>
<b>Mar. 27th</b>	<b>Pub Demo Session Flexibility</b>	
<b>April. 03rd</b>	<b>Pub Demo Session Flexibility</b>	<u>Assignment 4 - Assigned</u>

**April. 10th Demo Production 1**

Assignment 4 Due

**April. 17th ProTool Live Recording Song Showcase - NPR Radio Broadcast -**

Assignment 5 - Assigned.

Setting up live ProTool rig, live sound system for Brad Davis Song Writer Showcase that will air on NPR Radio. Each student will be assigned a team designation and job for the show. **Mandatory.**

LIVE LAB DAY 4

**April. 24th Editing, Mix & Mastering Fundamentals**

**May. 1st Review**

Assignment 5 Due

**May. 8th PRACTICAL FINAL EXAM**

**EXTRA CREDIT SESSIONS WILL BE ANNOUNCED WEEKLY**

MASS MEDIA, COMMUNICATION

**Document of understanding**

I have read the syllabus for RTV 360.

By my signature, I acknowledge that I fully understand the requirements of the class and will abide by the rules and guidelines contained in the syllabus. I understand that failure to do so will result in my being dismissed from the class.

**PRINT YOUR NAME LEGIBLY BELOW**

Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 3011 • Commerce, TX 75429-3011 • Phone: 903.886.5346 • Fax: 903.468.3250 •

[www.tamu-commerce.edu](http://www.tamu-commerce.edu)

A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Since Brad Davis Recording Studio is a private facility no associated with A&M, a PHOTO COPY OF STUDENT'S DRIVERS LICENSE is required to have on file while attending class.

**BRAD DAVIS RECORDING STUDIO  
RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (“BDRS facility occupant/student”), acknowledge that I have voluntarily applied to participate in the following activities at Brad Davis Recording Studio (BDRS facility): BDRS facility / 1132 Main Street, Commerce, Texas 75428 (Attending A&M RTV 360, recording sessions and lectures at BDRS facility)

I AM AWARE THAT THESE ACTIVITIES COULD BE HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES AND THAT I COULD BE HURT AND OR SERIOUSLY INJURED. I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THESE ACTIVITIES WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE DANGER INVOLVED, AND AGREE TO ASSUME ANY AND ALL RISKS OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE, WHETHER THOSE RISKS ARE KNOWN OR UNKNOWN.

I verify this statement by placing my initials here: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian’s initials (if under 18): \_\_\_\_\_

As consideration for being permitted by A&M, BDRS Studio, the State of Texas, the County of Hunt County to participate in these activities and use the Fair premises and facilities, I forever release BDRS studio, Brad Davis, any member of his family, any studio intern, A&M University, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, contractors, and representatives (collectively “Releasees”) from any and all actions, claims, or demands that I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives now have, or may have in the future, for injury, death, or property damage, related to (i) my participation in these activities, (ii) the negligence or other acts, whether directly connected to these activities or not, and however caused, by any Releasee, or (iii) the condition of the premises where these activities occur, whether or not I am then participating in the activities. I also agree that I, my

assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives will not make a claim against, sue, or attach the property of any Releasee in connection with any of the matters covered by the foregoing release.

I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS AGREEMENT AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND BRAD DAVIS (BDRS Facility) AND SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

If Signed by Parent or Guardian: I verify that the dangers of the activities and the significance of this Release and Waiver were explained to the Participant and that the Participant understood them.

Executed at \_\_\_\_\_, Texas on Day \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_ .

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_