

**SCHOOL OF ART  
BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS**

**SESSION 1 2001  
STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL MEDIA  
SART 1604**

**SOUND**

LECTURER: SIMON HUNT  
CLASS CODE: 10507 / 10508 / 10509 / 10683  
DAY & TIME: Monday, various times  
LOCATION: F106

---

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The five week SOUND component of "Introduction to Digital Media" examines the way we hear and perceive sound. The initial focus is on the basic "elements" of sound — frequency/melody, volume, spatial relationships and rhythm.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Technically, students will be introduced to sound recording (both analogue and digital), and basic sound editing via the "Protools" application. Various sound/music pieces and audiovisual works will also be examined in class.

**COURSE AIMS / OBJECTIVES:**

The sound component of this subject is intended to give the student an overview of the way sound works as a component of audio/visual art forms. It is intended as a precursor to the Semester 2 subject "Sound Media 1". Students will gain a basic understanding of audio recording and editing.

**SAFETY PROCEDURES**

Students should be aware of the requirement to avoid eyestrain, back, neck and repetitive strain injury (rsi) through correct posture, chair positioning and taking a break at least once every hour. When using headphones, students must ALWAYS play a short segment of sound BEFORE putting headphones on in order to avoid hearing damage.

**ASSESSMENT:**

To qualify for a passing grade all students must complete all set work, which is to be submitted on time. As this is a five week course, more than ONE absence without a medical certificate will result in a FAIL grade for this portion of the "Introduction To Digital Media" course. Students must be punctual and participate in all class activities. The student should be expected to show evidence of the achievement of the course's objectives.

## **Project One : GROUP PROJECT: "RECONSTRUCTING THE CITY"**

... 'Wherever in this city, screens flicker  
With pornography, with science-fiction vampires,  
Victimised hirelings bending to the lash,  
We also have to walk... if simply as we walk  
Through the rainsoaked garbage, the tabloid cruelties of our own neighborhoods.  
We need to grasp our lives inseparable  
From those rancid dreams...'

*Adrienne Rich, 'The Dream of a Common Language' NY, WW Norton, 1978. P25.*

Students will be divided into groups of four or five for the class project.

The project is to interpret the idea of the "city" via a one or two minute sound piece, constructed from layered recordings of .... whatever sounds you wish to use to express the feeling of a "city". Air conditioning ducts, traffic, distant voices, footsteps, sirens, crowds, rumbling tones ... your choice ... BUT ... also using some sections of the Adrienne Rich text from above, whether that be a single sentence, a phrase, a word or two ...

The piece should suggest a "journey", i.e. it should go through change, rather than sounding like a single recording. Rather than re-constructing reality, give an *interpretation* of that reality.

## **Project Two : AUDIO DIARY**

Keep a notebook with you over the next five weeks. Pay attention to the way you 'organise' sounds around you when you listen - what do you listen to ? What do you ignore? What unusual sounds do you hear? Listen to the sound of the city, or the suburbs, at nighttime. Take notes, and write at least 400 words about your experiences. The writing can take any form, it does not have to be in standard "essay" form. It must, however, be delivered in typed form, not hand-written.

**Project One = 80% of final grade.**

**Project Two = 20% of final grade.**

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### WEEK ONE

Introduction : The hierarchies of listening, the elements of sound

*Listening* : 2nd year BDM "Voice Projects"

Project introduction "Reconstructing the City"

Form groups, Sony Pro cassette recording field tests.

Demonstration of Protools Sound editing.

### WEEK TWO

Digital Audio Tape recorders / Group field recording / Digitising sound.

### WEEK THREE

Protools sound editing/ Group lab work (F106/B107). You should at this stage organise with others in your group to work on your pieces out of class hours.

### WEEK FOUR

Further editing and sound manipulation tools; file importing

Group lab work (F106/B107)

WEEK FIVE

Presentation of group pieces, hand in Audio Diaries.