

USC Iovine and Young Academy

*Arts, Technology and the Business
of Innovation*

ACAD-207: Digital Toolbox: Video and Sound Editing

Units: 2.0

SPRING 2024

Section 10207 | Tuesdays — 9:00 to 11:50am

Location: IYH 210/211

Instructor: David Amir Beier

Office: Zoom, two times a week (tbd)

Office Hours: please request personal meeting

Contact Info: dbeier@uc.edu

IT Help:

<https://uscedu.sharepoint.com/sites/IYAStudent/SitePages/IT-Resources.aspx>

Hours of Service: 9:00am - 6:00 pm

Contact Info: iya.helpdesk@usc.edu

USC Technology Support Links

[Zoom information for students](#)

[Blackboard help for students](#)

[Software available to USC Campus](#)

Course Description

Students will learn to conceive, record, and edit powerful narratives in service of presenting ideas, promoting brands/products, and assisting in the creation of marketing or social impact. With a goal of meaningful communications, students will develop skills in writing, audio, cinematography, editing, branding, and understanding audience perception.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes

1. Learn to use software for the editing and manipulation of video.
2. Learn to use software for the editing and manipulation of audio.
3. Understand how to use sound and video editing creatively.
4. Gain an understanding of “best practices” and efficient workflows for video and sound editing.

Actively improve your skills in...

- Non Linear Editing (NLE) software such as Adobe Premiere Pro
- Digital Audio Workstation software such as Adobe Audition
- General Media Management, file-types, compression, and transcoding.
- Archiving and Back-Up procedures.
- Video and Sound Editing for storytelling.

Prerequisite(s): none | **Co-Requisite(s):** none | **Concurrent Enrollment:** none

Additional Recommended Preparation

- 1.) Have Quicktime Player and required video/audio editing software (see below) installed on your laptop by the first day of instruction.
- 2.) Listen to podcasts! Analyze one or two that intrigue you most for their narrative structure, how information is revealed, and how a thesis is being built.
- 3.) Watch commercials, brand videos, and cause-related short films. Pick one spot to analyze for the class. What elements give this spot an authentic feel? What about it feels inauthentic? Pay close attention to choices in tone, acting, framing, background action, pacing, sound, and editing.

Communication

Professor will communicate to students via email and Blackboard announcements. Students are expected to check their email daily. Students may communicate with professor via USC email: dbeier@usc.edu. Students who do not respond to class emails when applicable may have their grade reduced.

Nature of this Course

This is a fast-paced course which will immerse students in a range of opportunities to communicate using media such as video, stills, and audio.

Student responsibilities: Students will be expected to keep up with the required readings so that class time can be devoted lecture and in-class works. Students are expected to take an active role in how this course unfolds by deciding on their own goals and using the later class projects to create content that they are proud of.

Hardware/Software Required:

- **Laptop** suitable for Content Creation. Macbook Pro, Dell XPS, Microsoft Surface Laptop, ect. For Windows laptops, an i7 processor and 16 GB of RAM is strongly recommended. For Mac, M1 processor and 16 GB of RAM is strongly recommended. **IPads, Chromebooks, and simple, media-consumption laptops are NOT acceptable.**
- **Adobe Creative Cloud with Premiere Pro and Adobe Audition.** If you do not have a subscription, you will need to purchase one through the online bookstore and the Academy will set up an account for you. Avid Media Composer or Logic X Pro may be used if student can demonstrate proficiency. **Final Cut Pro, Windows Movie Maker, and iMovie are NOT acceptable.**
- **Over-Ear Headphones.** No ear buds! Recommended models: Audio Technica ATH-M50x, Sennheiser Pro Audio HD280PRO, Sony MDR-7506
- **External Hardrive or Flashdrive.** You must keep all media you generate for the course available through the term. Recommended 2TB.

**NOTE: See separate Equipment List on Blackboard for a more detailed/up-to-date list of equipment.*

PLEASE CONTACT PROFESSOR IF YOU FEEL FINANCIAL HARSHIPS PREVENT YOU FROM PROCURING THE NEEDED MATERIALS/SOFTWARE.

USC Technology Rental Program

The university realizes that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program. To apply, please submit an [USC Technology Rental Program Application](#).

HOW TO PURCHASE SOFTWARE AT THE DISCOUNTED ACADEMY RATE

For classes that require them, the following software are available for purchase **online** through the USC Iovine and Young software catalog at the Academy discounted rate:

Software	IYA Short-Term License at USC Bookstore
Adobe Creative Cloud	\$70 2019–2020 annual license
Apple Logic Pro	\$35 semester licenses
Solidworks	\$35 semester license
Apple Final Cut Pro	\$35 semester license

To purchase:

- Visit: <https://commerce.cashnet.com/IOVINE>
- Select the software license(s) you would like to purchase by clicking “View Details” or the software title, and make your purchase
- You will receive an order confirmation receipt at the email address you provided
- You will be notified by email when the software license has been activated

If you have any questions about this process, please do not hesitate to contact Academy IT Support at iyahelp@usc.edu.

Academy Equipment

We will utilize the Academy's sound, video and lighting equipment to create audio and video content. You'll receive proper training in the use of the equipment so you can use these tools confidently in your labs and projects. For some equipment you will need to acquire certification before you can check them out.

Supplementary Materials

LinkedIn Learning

Premiere Pro 2022 Essential Training by Ashley Kennedy

<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/premiere-pro-2022-essential-training>

LinkedIn Learning

Audition Essential Training by Paul Murphy

<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/audition-essential-training>

LinkedIn Learning

Vocal Production for Voice Overs and Podcasts by Evan Sutton

<https://www.linkedin.com/learning/vocal-production-for-voice-overs-and-podcasts>

"In the Blink of an Eye" by Walter Murch (Publisher: Silman-James Press)

Classic and entertaining read on the purpose, techniques and impact of film editing.

<https://www.hennesseyingalls.com/search/site/in%20the%20blink%20of%20an%20eye>

Assessment of Assignments

The following graded course components will help students measure their own mastery of narrative and technical audio and video skills:

Quizzes recall standards and practices in multiple choice and short answer format.

Projects test your personal practical skills with various audio and video tools as well as your creativity and mastery of skills in context.

Description of this year's projects

Project 1_Silent Story: In Premiere Pro, edit a short scene from a silent film using pre-existing footage.

Project 2_Interview: In Premiere Pro, edit a video interview while making sure to incorporate B-roll. In Audition, use the audio tools to clean the sound.

Project 3_Music Video: In Audition, take a song of your choice and create a seamless music edit so that the final length is in a 30-second increment (60s, 90s, ect.) Next, import the new audio track into Adobe Premiere Pro and create a music video or lyric video using pre-existing footage of your choosing.

Project 4_Podcast: Create a short podcast based on an audio interview.

Project 5_Final: Create a Commercial Campaign, a Video Essay, or an Explainer Video using a mixture of recorded vocals and visual media. Your video must include original voice-over (that you have recorded) **and** deliver a coherent idea, story, or message. You may create this project on your own or in groups of 2 - 3. You will need to make use of both Adobe Premiere Pro and Adobe Audition in your work. Final projects should be 3 – 5 minutes in length. For Commercial Campaigns you may submit 2-3 videos that total at least 3 minutes.

Grading Breakdown

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Participation	100	10
Quizzes	100	10
P1_Silent Story	100	10
P2_ Interview	100	10
P3_ Music Video	200	10
P4_Podcast	100	20
P5_Final	300	30
TOTAL	1000	100

Grading Scale (Example)

Final course grades will be determined using the following scale

A	95-100	C	73-76
A-	90-94	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and below

Assignment Submission Policy

All labs, projects and assignments are due at the date and time specified in the syllabus. Projects that are more than 24 hours late will receive a 50% deduction in points. Projects that are more than 7 days late will receive 0 points. Be sure to check Blackboard if you have to miss a class. You are responsible for any materials presented and assignments made even if you are not in class that day. VIDEOS MUST BE SUBMITTED AS A VIDEO FILE, NOT A PROJECT FILE FROM PREMIERE PRO. See "submission instructions" document on Blackboard for more information.

Extensions

Each student may ask for an extension on one assignment per semester only, Requests need to be made at least 72 hours before the deadline. Consider planned family and other travel commitments etc. when making your choice. The above Assignment Submission Policy strictly applies to the extension date given.

Grading Timeline and Importance of Continued Contribution

You will receive grades for classroom quizzes, check-ins, labs, projects and other assignments within a week of submission. Group Project Grading: During group projects with a timeline of more than two weeks, you may get individually graded for each week's effort up to a pro-rated part of the maximum achievable points for the project. This is to assure everyone contributes their best effort to the team from the beginning of a project to its submission deadline. I may also employ a peer evaluation survey and/or a multiplier to determine fair grading within a group.

Participation

Participation grade is determined by a variety of factors including (but not limited to) in-class work & discussion, attendance, prompt arrival to class, and communication with professor. Students who fail to participate fully in group projects may see their individual grade lowered compared to their other members of their group.

Classroom Norms

Students are expected to actively engage with the subjects of the course inside and outside of the classroom. Assigned papers should be informed by research beyond common knowledge. Your solutions to weekly prompts and your course project are expected to be fulfilled from a personal point of engaging your skills, possess thematic merit and relevance to your maker / portfolio goals. Furthermore, instructor expects all students to documenting your own learning process, take an active role in the success of the group through contributing to discussion in the classroom, sharing of ideas, voluntarily providing constructive feedback for your peers, and supporting each other as teammates.

To make the above possible, phones must be put away while in the classroom. Use of laptops is allowed only for tasks relating to our course. It is recommended to take notes by pen/notebook.

Zoom Etiquette

If a class takes place over zoom, students are expected to attend the class with their cameras on. If for any reason you cannot keep your camera on during class, please contact the professor prior to the start of class so accommodations can be made. Zoom sessions may be recorded and, if so, provided to all students asynchronously.

Other Accommodations

This class is an inclusive environment. We strive to provide equity for our students. Please contact professor if you have any other concerns about receiving the proper accommodations based on your individual needs.

Additional Policies (IMPORTANT)

- When working in groups EACH STUDENT MUST TURN IN A COPY OF THE ASSIGNMENT VIA BLACKBOARD. Students will not receive credit if they do not submit their own copy, even if other members of their group have submitted.
- Attendance and participation are part of your grade. As such, your final grade may not be accurately reflected by BlackBoard.
- Tardiness or absence will reflect negatively on your grade (please see the IYA attendance policy). This includes returning from class breaks or outdoor assignments. It is the students responsibility to make it to class in a timely manner and the professor WILL NOT remind students to be on time.
- In accordance with IYA policy, students have three days to have an absence excused.

Iovine and Young Hall Cleanout

The Academy is unable to store student projects and materials beyond the end of the semester. Students must remove all projects and personal materials from the Creators Studio, lockers/locker room, and other classrooms by the end of each semester. **All projects and materials left in Iovine and Young Hall will be discarded two days after final exams end. No exceptions.**

Academy Attendance Policy

The Academy maintains rigorous academic standards for its students and on-time attendance at all class meetings is expected. Each student will be allowed two excused absences over the course of the semester for which no explanation is required. Students are admonished to not waste excused absences on non-critical issues, and to use them carefully for illness or other issues that may arise unexpectedly. Except in the case of prolonged illness or other serious issue (see below), no additional absences will be excused. Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the final grade by $\frac{1}{3}$ of a grade (e.g., an A will be lowered to A-, and A- will be lowered to a B+, etc.). In addition, being tardy to class will count as one-third of an absence. Three tardies will equal a full course absence.

Students remain responsible for any missed work from excused or unexcused absences. Immediately following an absence, students should contact the instructor to obtain missed assignments or lecture notes and to confirm new deadlines or due dates. Extensions or other accommodations are at the discretion of the instructor.

Automatically excused absences normally may not be used for quiz, exam or presentation days. Using an excused absence for a quiz, exam or presentation, such as in the case of sudden illness or other emergency, is at the discretion of the instructor.

In the case of prolonged illness, family emergencies, or other unforeseen serious issues, the student should contact the instructor to arrange for accommodation. Accommodation may also be made for essential professional or career-related events or opportunities. All accommodations remain at the discretion of the instructor, and appropriate documentation may be required.

Spring 2023 addendum:

- Unless students provide an accommodation letter from USC's Office of Student Accessibility Services or a letter from IYA Student Services detailing visa or travel restrictions, attendance and active participation is expected in the classroom. Any student with such accommodations should submit their accommodation document to the instructor as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations. Either classroom recordings or live remote access to the class via Zoom will be provided.
- Students who are experiencing illness should not attend class in person. Please inform the instructor in advance of any class sessions that you can't attend for medical reasons, and accommodations will be arranged to view recorded lectures and submit alternatives to any missed class participation. Students will not be penalized for not attending class in person under these circumstances.
- In the event that you find yourself experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms, in keeping with university recommendations, you should Stay home! This is the best way to prevent spreading COVID-19 as supported by scientific evidence; Please do not come to an in-person class if you are feeling ill, particularly if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

	CLASSROOM	READING	ASSIGNMENTS	DUE DATES
Week 1 Jan 9	LECTURE: Introduction to ACAD 180 LAB: Premiere Pro Interface	LinkedIn Learning: Premiere Pro Essential Training: Chapter 1	Survey	Jan 14 (9:00 AM): Survey
Week 2 Jan 16	LECTURE: The Illusion of Editing LAB: Organizing Media, Basic Editing, Exporting	Premiere Pro Essential Training: Chapter 2, 3		
Week 3 Jan 23	LECTURE: Shots LAB: Refining Edits	Premiere Pro Essential Training: Chapter 4, 12		Jan 28: P1_Silent Story
Week 4 Jan 30	LECTURE: Digital Images LAB: B Role	Premiere Pro Essential Training: Chapter 5, 6		
Week 5 Feb 6	LECTURE: Cuts LAB: Syncing Video & Audio	Audition Essential Training: Chapter 1,2,3		
Week 6 Feb 13	LECTURE: Understanding Sound LAB: Audition Basics	Audition Essential Training: Chapter 4, 5		FEB 18: P2_Interview
Week 7 Feb 20	LECTURE: Rhythm and Editing LAB: Music Editing	Audition Essential Training: Chapter 6, 7		
Week 8 Feb 27	LECTURE: Continuity in Editing LAB: Graphics, Effects, and Speed Manipulation	Premiere Pro Essential Training: Chapter 7, 8, 9		

Week 9 Mar 5	LECTURE: Compression and Codecs LAB: Keystroke Editing and Other Tips			
NO CLASS Mar 12				Mar 17: P3_Music Video
Week 10 Mar 19	LECTURE: Audio Production LAB: Recording Vocals	Audition Essential Training: Chapter 8, 9, 10		
Week 11 Mar 26	LECTURE: Audio Storytelling LAB: Editing Vocals	Vocal Production: All Chapters		
Week 12 April 2	LECTURE: Sound Design LAB: Sound Mixing			April 7: P4_Podcast
Week 13 April 9	LECTURE: Editing Theory LAB: Digital Negatives, Proxies, Group Work			
Week 14 April 16	LECTURE: Editing Theory LAB: Group Work			April 21: P5_FINAL (Group A)
Week 15 April 23	FINAL PROJECT SCREENINGS GROUP A			April 28: P5_FINAL (Group B)
NO CLASS April 30				
FINAL May 7	FINAL PROJECT SCREENINGS GROUP B			

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@usc.edu.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
Studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX (EEO-TIX) - (213) 740-5086
eeotix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS) - (213) 740-0776

osas.usc.edu

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

ombuds.usc.edu

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice - (323) 442-3340 or otfp@med.usc.edu

chan.usc.edu/otfp

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.