Welcome to
LFS 400: Audio Storytelling

Wednesdays: 10 am – 12pm
Fridays: 11 am – 12 pm
MacMillan (MCML) Room 358

We're very excited to have you here!

In LFS 400, we will teach you to use audio technology, storytelling technique and a journalistic framework in order to tell powerful stories and present academic content in new ways. It is a seminar course with a lot of personal attention, critical feedback, and weekly lab-based work. By the end of the course, you will have the ability to share your knowledge in new, effective, and creative ways, and to think critically of the science and stories you encounter.

Instructors

Duncan McHugh (he/him)
MCML 264B (remote on Mon & Tue)
Fridays 10 am – 11 am or by appointment
duncan.mchugh@ubc.ca

Juli Carrillo (she/her)
MCML 333
Fridays after class or by appointment
juli.carrillo@ubc.ca

TA: Melissa Platsko, melissa.platsko@ubc.ca
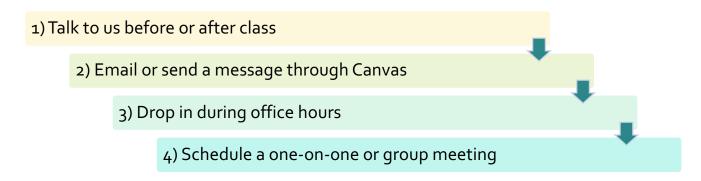**Course Assistant:** Carly McGregor (she/they), carly.mcgregor@ubc.ca

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UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nation. The land it is situated on has always been a place of learning for the Musqueam people, who for millennia have passed on their culture, history, and traditions from one generation to the next in this place. We encourage you to learn more about the Musqueam Nation by visiting the Musqueam Nation's story page on their website: https://www.musqueam.bc.ca/our-story/

Course Policy

As instructors, we respect and value diverse ways of knowing and learning. This course was a part of UBC's inaugural Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Fellows Program. As such, we have been working to improve the contents of this course with the goal of creating a supportive learning space where all students can access and engage with course materials in a way that works for them. We are continuing to expand on content and assignment diversity, in the hopes that every student may get the chance to apply and convey their strengths.

If there is anything we can do throughout this course to improve your learning experience, we'd love to hear about it! Please let us know of accommodations that will help you to fully participate and succeed in this course. We also welcome any general feedback on how we can improve LFS 400. You can reach out to us anytime.

How to contact us:

1) Talk to us before or after class

2) Email or send a message through Canvas

3) Drop in during office hours
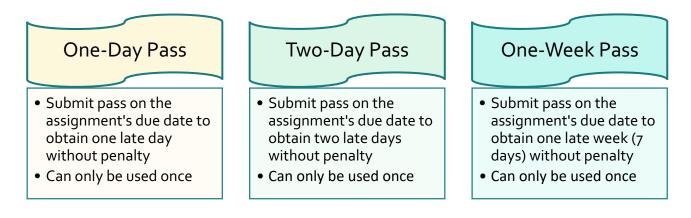
4) Schedule a one-on-one or group meeting

Every student is responsible for showing up to class and participating in a way that respects instructors and fellow students alike. This involves regular attendance, considerate active class participation, and completion of assignments with attention to deadlines.

We recognize that—amidst complicated academic workloads and personal responsibilities—deadlines can be difficult for some. Our late policy for assignments is therefore as follows:

Late Policy

Every student will be allocated three late allowance passes, as depicted below. Passes must be used **on the due date by alerting the instructors and clearly stating which pass you are using**. Passes cannot retroactively be applied. Only one pass can be used on any given assignment. Any late submissions without a pass will be subject to a 10% per day penalty. Further academic concessions will be facilitated by Student Services in your home faculty.

Late Passes

One-Day Pass	Two-Day Pass	One-Week Pass
• Submit pass on the assignment's due date to obtain one late day without penalty • Can only be used once	• Submit pass on the assignment's due date to obtain two late days without penalty • Can only be used once	• Submit pass on the assignment's due date to obtain one late week (7 days) without penalty • Can only be used once

There are several helpful UBC support streams available for students. Below is a brief list. Please consider making use of these services:

- Academic advising
- Mental health and wellbeing support
- Centre for Accessibility
- Equity & Inclusion Office student support networks

Course Modality

The first half of this course is structured as a fast-paced, skill-developing 'intensive' to give you each the opportunity to engage with key technological and theoretical skills for storytelling and content dissemination. The topics for the first six weeks are as follows:

Week 1: Course introduction

Weeks 2 & 3: Storytelling in sound & on the web

Week 4: Interviewing & scripting

Weeks 5 & 6: Journalism ethics & information literacy

The second half of this course is focused on the creation of **your podcast**. Weekly lectures will feature guest lectures, workshops, and feedback sessions for your podcasts.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, we aim for every student to learn to:

- Synthesize information to form an original personal narrative or story;

- Apply technological tools to convey their content in podcast format;

- Develop media literacy for critical engagement with disciplinary knowledge;

- Apply critical and creative thinking skills in the collection and analysis of information;

- Compare different channels and purposes of journalistic communication (e.g., traditional media outlets, social networks);

- Integrate discipline specific knowledge in powerful messages through 'humanizing the content';

- Understand the basic mechanics of creating a message for a purpose (e.g., story for emotional engagement, dissemination, awareness building, advocacy, news etc.);

- Develop skills to effectively critique their own and peers' work;

- Give and receive meaningful feedback.

Course Schedule

Subject to change. Days with an assignment due or class quiz are filled in green.

Date	Wednesday 10 am – 12 pm	Friday 11 am – 12 pm
Week 1 Jan 10 & 12	Course intro, Audio Editing Workshop I: Basics & Audacity	Audio Editing Workshop II: Multi-track editing
Week 2 Jan 17 & 19	Story Structure: what works best for audio stories? *Activity: Streeter pitches*	**Quiz #1: Audio Editing** Copyright & Creative Commons
Week 3 Jan 24 & 26	Audio Storytelling, Making sense with sound **Streeter due**	*Activity: Voicer pitches*
Week 4 Jan 31 & Feb 2	Interview Skills, Writing for the Ear	Performing your Audio Stories
Week 5 Feb 7 & 9	Journalism Ethics **Voicer due**	Radio station tour at CiTR Lower Level of The Nest
Week 6 Feb 14 & 16	Information literacy: evidence-based journalism, advocacy and storytelling *Activity: Outline pitches*	Midterm potluck Midcourse feedback
Feb 21, 23	**Reading Break**	**Reading Break**
Week 7 Feb 28 & Mar 1	Guest lecture: Media Relations **Outline due**	Guest lecture: Science Journalism
Week 8 Mar 6 & 8	Soundwalk	**Quiz #2: Podcast Evaluation** Audio Project Management, Audio editing refresher
Week 9 Mar 13 & 15	Guest lecture: Radio & Podcast Practitioners **Soundscapes due**	Guest lecture: Science Journalism
Week 10 Mar 20 & 22	Individual feedback sessions for student stories	Beyond Ethics
Week 11 Mar 27	**Draft Podcast due** Group feedback and suggestions on draft podcasts	Stat Holiday
Week 12 Apr 3 & 5	Workshopping	Workshopping
Week 13 Apr 10 & 12	Listening Party I **Final Podcasts due**	Listening Party II

Grading Scheme & Key Dates

Quiz 1 / 2% / Friday, January 19

Streeter / 8% / Due: Wednesday, January 24

Streeter Feedback / 2% / Due: Wednesday, January 31

Voicer / 8% / Due: Wednesday, February 7

Voicer Feedback / 2% / Due: Wednesday, February 14

Project Outline / 10% / Due: Wednesday, February 28

Quiz 2 / 2% / Friday, March 8

Soundscape / 5% / Due: Wednesday, March 13

Draft Podcast / 10% / Due: Wednesday, March 27

Final Podcast / 24% / Due: Wednesday, April 10

Podcast Transcript / 5% / Due: Wednesday, April 10

Reflection / 10% / Due: Wednesday, April 24

Podcast Analysis / 2%

Participation / 5%

Self-reflection / 5%