

Welcome to

LFS 400: Audio Storytelling

Wednesdays: 10am - 12pm

Fridays: 11am - 12pm

MacMillan (MCML), 2357 Main Mall, room 258

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 10am - 11am or by appointment
duncan.mchugh@ubc.ca

Jennifer Black (she/her)
FNH 242, 2205 East Mall
Wednesday and Friday after class
or by appointment
j.black@ubc.ca

TA: Jennifer Lipka, jennifer.lipka@ubc.ca

UBC's Point Grey Campus is located on the traditional territory of the x̱w̱məθḵw̱əy̱əm (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 content 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 (if necessary) 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

Late submissions be subject to a 10% per day penalty. In case of emergency or illness, reach out to us before the deadline and we can arrange a plan with you. Further academic concessions will be facilitated by Student Services in your home faculty.

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

- [Academic advising](#)
- [Centre for Accessibility](#)
- [Mental health and wellbeing support](#)
- [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 8 & 10	Course intro, Audio Editing Workshop I: Basics & Audacity	Audio Editing Workshop II: Multi-track editing
Week 2 Jan 15 & 17	Story Structure: what works best for audio stories? <i>Activity: Streeter pitches</i>	Quiz #1: Audio Editing Copyright & Creative Commons
Week 3 Jan 22 & 24	Audio Storytelling, Making sense with sound Streeter due	<i>Activity: Voicer pitches</i>
Week 4 Jan 29 & 31	Interview Skills, Writing for the Ear	Performing your Audio Stories
Week 5 Feb 5 & 7	Journalism Ethics Voicer due	Radio station tour at CiTR Lower Level of The Nest
Week 6 Feb 12 & 14	Information literacy: evidence-based journalism, advocacy and storytelling <i>Activity: Outline pitches</i>	Midterm potluck Midcourse feedback
Feb 19 & 21	Reading Break	Reading Break
Week 7 Feb 26 & 28	Guest lecture: Media Relations Outline due	Guest lecture: Science Journalism
Week 8 Mar 5 & 7	Soundwalk	Soundscapes due
Week 9 Mar 12 & 14	Guest lecture: Radio & Podcast Practitioners	Quiz #2: Podcast Evaluation Audio Project Management, Audio editing refresher
Week 10 Mar 19 & 21	Draft Podcast due Group feedback and suggestions on draft podcasts	Beyond Ethics
Week 11 Mar 26 & 28	Workshopping	Workshopping
Week 12 Apr 2 & 4	Listening Party I Final Podcasts due	Listening Party II

Grading Scheme & Key Dates

Quiz 1	/	2%	/	Friday, January 17
Streeter	/	10%	/	Due: Wednesday, January 22
Streeter Feedback	/	2%	/	Due: Wednesday, January 29
Voicer	/	10%	/	Due: Wednesday, February 5
Voicer Feedback	/	2%	/	Due: Wednesday, February 12
Project Outline	/	10%	/	Due: Wednesday, February 26
Soundscape	/	5%	/	Due: Friday, March 7
Quiz 2	/	2%	/	Friday, March 14
Draft Podcast	/	10%	/	Due: Wednesday, March 19
Final Podcast	/	25%	/	Due: Wednesday, April 2
Podcast Transcript	/	5%	/	Due: Wednesday, April 2
Reflection	/	10%	/	Due: Wednesday, April 16
Podcast Analysis	/	2%		
Participation	/	5%		