

Audio Software - Audacity

Course Overview

This course introduces students to Audacity, a popular audio editing and recording software. Aimed at beginners, it covers the basics of digital audio, recording techniques, audio editing, effects, and publishing. Students will gain hands-on experience with Audacity, learning to manage audio projects from start to finish.

Course Objectives

- Familiarize with Audacity's user interface and functionalities.
- Record high-quality audio for different purposes.
- Edit audio files efficiently using Audacity's tools.
- Apply effects to enhance audio projects.
- Mix multiple audio tracks to create cohesive projects.
- Export and publish audio content in various formats.

Unit 1: Intro to Digital Audio

Introduces Audacity's interface, basic digital audio concepts, and setting up for recording.

- ☐ Reading - Digital Audio Primer (Sample rates, bit depth, etc)
- ☐ Getting Started with Audacity
- ☐ Basic Editing - Cutting, Copying, Pasting, Fading Audio
- ☐ Cleaning Your Audio - Noise reduction, Normalization
- ☐ Your First Recording
- ☐ Introduction to audio file management, emphasizing the organization of files and projects for efficient workflow.
- ☐ Hands-on tutorial: "Your First Recording with Audacity" - Includes detailed steps for making recordings and managing projects.
- ☐ Quiz 1
- ☐ Assignment: Create a brief podcast segment, focusing on clean recording techniques and basic editing

Unit 2: Editing and Effects

Explores advanced editing techniques, including the use of effects like normalization, equalization, and noise reduction, to improve audio quality.

- ☐ Reading: "Advanced Editing Techniques for Clear Audio" – An in-depth look at editing tools and how they can be used to refine audio content.
- ☐ Video Tutorial: "Applying Effects in Audacity" – Focuses on normalization, equalization, compression, and noise reduction to improve audio quality.
- ☐ Exercise: "Real-World Editing Practice" – Students edit a provided podcast interview and a music track, applying advanced techniques and effects.
- ☐ Tutorial: "Mastering Audacity's Effects Library" – A deep dive into customizing effects to achieve professional audio quality, including practical exercises.
- ☐ Quiz 2
- ☐ Assignment: Produce a 10-minute audio story or interview. Use advanced editing techniques and effects, emphasizing creativity and technical skills.

Unit 3: Multitrack Mixing and Publishing

Covers the skills needed to mix multiple audio tracks, incorporate background music and sound effects, and finalize projects for export and publishing.

- ☐ Reading: "Principles of Multitrack Mixing" – Covers how to balance elements within a mix for clarity and impact.
- ☐ Video Tutorial: "Mixing and Exporting Projects in Audacity" – Guides on blending tracks, adjusting levels, and using panning for dynamic mixes.
- ☐ Reading: "Exporting and Publishing Your Audio" – Discusses file formats, metadata, distribution platforms, and copyright considerations.
- ☐ Tutorial: "Creating a Complete Podcast Episode" – Step-by-step process on segment planning, recording, mixing, and branding for a professional podcast episode.
- ☐ Quiz 3
- ☐ Final Project: Students create a comprehensive audio project (e.g., podcast episode, music track, sound design for video). This project includes recording, editing, mixing, and publishing stages, with a peer review process to foster feedback and community engagement.