

205 Key Terms

Pre-Production : (7%)

script writing -Screenwriters and scriptwriters are film crew members who write/create the screenplays from which films and television programs are made.

condenser microphone – A microphone (often referred to as a mic or mike) type consisting of a capacitor with one plate fixed and the other forming the diaphragm moved by sound waves.

piezoelectric microphone - A microphone type that uses an acoustic-to-electric transducer or sensor that converts sound into an electrical signal.

lavaliere microphone – A small dynamic microphone, usual clip-on, used for television, theatre, and public speaking applications, in order to allow hands-free operation.

RCA cable - Sometimes called a phono connector or cinch connector, RCA cable is a type of electrical connector commonly used to carry audio and video signals. It is commonly recognizable by its red, white, and yellow connectors.

XLR cable - The XLR connector is an electrical connector design. XLR plugs and sockets are used mostly in professional audio and video electronics cabling applications for microphones and line level signals.

mini cable - A narrow diameter radiation tolerant cable specifically designed for situations where flexibility is necessary.

¼ inch (phono) cable – A standard “must have” cable type known for its noise free connections and resistance to interference.

Production : (4%)

recording audio – A sound recording: a recording of acoustic signals.

peaking - (audio peaks) The highest audio levels in a track. Peaks that exceed 0 dB should be clipped.

cardioid pickup pattern - Cardioid means "heart-shaped", which is the type of pick-up pattern these mics use. Sound is picked up mostly from the front, but to a lesser extent, also the sides.

omnidirectional pickup pattern - Captures sound equally from all directions. Ambient (background) noises are also captured. This mic type is used in situations where sound is coming from many directions.

shotgun pickup pattern - A shotgun microphone is an extremely directional mic. It is most commonly used by tv and film crews since it allows for the precise selection of sound pickup in noisy and uncontrolled environments. A shotgun mic has a very narrow field of pickup directly in front of it. Very little sound is picked up from the sides or rear.

bi-directional pickup pattern - Picks up sound from two opposite directions.

parabolic pickup pattern - has a very narrow, pencil like far reaching pattern and is best applied on athletic field sidelines where the microphone will be very distant from the sound source (the athletes). This mic works on sources over 30 feet way. This mic type has very poor sound quality for you are using a dish to focus the sound. It is not used for any high fidelity applications.

Post-Production : (3%)

scrubbing - The process of moving within an audio file or tape to locate a particular section.

ducking - The level of one audio signal is reduced by the presence of another signal. In radio this can typically be achieved by lowering (ducking) the volume of a secondary audio track when the primary track starts, and lifting the volume again when the primary track is finished.

codec - Computer program implementing an algorithm that compresses and decompresses digital audio data according to a given audio file format or streaming media audio format. The object of the algorithm is to represent the high-fidelity audio signal with minimum number of bits while retaining quality.

bandwidth - The range of audio frequencies which directly influence the fidelity of a sound. The higher the audio bandwidth, the better the sound fidelity.

equalization - Boosting or reducing the levels of different frequencies in a signal. The most basic type of equalization familiar to most people is the treble/bass control on home audio equipment.

audio gain - Gain is a unit of measurement used to mean the ratio of a signal output of a system to the signal input of the system.

normalization - An automatic process where the gain of all program material can be adjusted so the greatest peak level will lower than or equal to 0 dBFS.