Recording Outside of the Classroom With iPods: Interviews, Field Notes, and Other Information Collection

**Overview**
The iPod, when coupled with a small recording attachment, becomes a portable digital recorder, capable of storing hundreds of hours of recorded audio. Students in many courses enhanced their empirical research by using iPods to collect information outside of class, including recording interviews, personal field notes, and environmental sounds in various settings.

**Academic Uses: Interviews & Field Notes**

**JENNIFER AHERN-DODSON—EDUCATION 152S**
Students recorded interviews with Durham community centers, schools, and non-profits and used recordings as material for a research essay about community partners’ assets and challenges.

**MICHELE STRANO—WRITING 20/24**
Students recorded interviews with several individuals to report on patterns in the personal recollections of memorable historical events, such as the Challenger space shuttle explosion.

**TIM LENOIR—INFO SCIENCE / INFO STUDIES 270**
Students recorded interviews conducted with biomedical technology experts.

**PETER McISAAC—GERMAN 115S**
Groups of students recorded interviews with Americans to discover how seminal events in Berlin’s history—the World Wars, the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall—are perceived in the United States.

**LISA HUETTEL—ELECTRICAL / COMPUTER ENGINEERING 180**
Students used iPods to record pulse rate data during physical activity, as well as environmental sounds, and used recordings to study digital signal concepts.

**KENNETH ROGERSON—PUBLIC POLICY 120**
Students recorded and reviewed interviews for weekly newspaper-style articles.

**LOUISE MEINTJES—MUSIC 137 / CULTURAL ANTH 145**
Students conducted ethnographic field research, using iPods and other devices to capture interviews and other audio to explore the relationship between music and other social practices.

**KATHERINE EWING—CULTURAL ANTH 194**
Students recorded interviews with individuals in various cultural contexts to examine the cultural significance of community interactions.

**SALLY SCHAUMAN—ENVIRONMENT 181**
Students recorded audio field notes of environmental observations and interviews with local residents to study how American communities address water problems.

**SATTENDRA KHANNA—ASIAN / AFRICAN LANG & LIT 49S**
Students recorded natural sounds in various cultural environments to help examine subjective experience as well as ideas about mysticism and human potential.

**ROBERT ZIMMERMAN / KERRY MCCARTHY—MUSIC 70**
Students recorded samples of sounds in various environments and composed thematic “sonic essays” from their recordings.

**Academic Uses: Other Information Collection**

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