Marshall McLuhan said that the arrival of the electronic age would bring with it a rediscovery of the aural. People would favor the immediacy and expressivity of oral communication over visual and written forms.

Presently the tools for creating and distributing voice-based content are more accessible than ever. In this class we will examine the potential for oral storytelling in light of the affordances that these tools offer.

We will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the voice as a medium, and examine and critique current and past examples of art and design that employ oral narratives.

Techniques covered will include fundamentals of audio and sound design for spoken word, field recording, podcasting, as well as strategies for production of radio and telephony projects. Students are encouraged to develop unconventional methods of oral storytelling. Familiarity with digital audio editing tools is recommended.

Students will keep an audio journal in the form of a podcast consisting of weekly exercises and responses to readings (and listenings). In addition, students will research and prepare a short presentation of an example of orality they find inspiring. The semester will culminate with the presentation of a project or an oral essay.

**Grading:**

- 20% Short presentation
- 40% In-class participation
- 40% Final presentation

**Week 1**

Fundamentals of Audio

**Week 2**

Introduction to Orality; Podcasting How-To

**Week 3**

Recording the Voice; Microphone Techniques

**Week 4**

Storytelling and Poetry in the Electronic Age

**Week 5**

Sound Design for the Voice

**Week 6**

Psychoacoustics of the Spoken Word
Orality in the Electronic Age

Week 7
Orality in the Electronic Age: Theory

Week 8
Midterm Presentations

Week 9
Radio

Week 10
Radio continued; Telephony

Week 11
Telephony continued

Week 12
Spatial Storytelling

Weeks 13 & 14
Final Presentations

Required Text:
Orality and Literacy – Walter J. Ong