

## **DC415 Post-Production Sound Design**

**Syllabus Spring 2016**

**Rob Steel**

**Tuesday, 10:00am – 1:00pm**

**CDM 526**

### **General Course Information**

#### **Course Description**

Emphasis will be on mixing and editing techniques for music and sound effects. Coursework also includes the recording of natural sounds and special effects to reinforce images and the story. The course is intended for advanced students who wish to develop their skills and gain more experience in preparing and mixing sound tracks for traditional as well as interactive narratives. This is a lecture/lab course.

#### **Course Management Systems and Videos:**

D2L

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin, Mixing a Short Film with Pro Tools with Scott Hirsch  
<http://www.lynda.com/SharedPlaylist/e37a4155ab10490591881380b2476b79?org=depaul.edu>

Sound Devices Training Videos are available on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/sounddev/playlists>

#### **Textbooks and printed resources**

Required Texts: **Sound for Film and Television, Third Edition, by Tomlinson Holman**

#### **Software:**

Pro Tools will be the main software we work with in this class. Labs which include Pro Tools are CDM 526, CDM 922, CDM 9th floor IMacs (get an iLok from the cage), C106C and the Editing Suites in the basement of the DePaul Center, and the MAC Lab on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the student center.

#### **Drop dates:**

4.10.16 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.  
5.15.16 is the last day to *withdraw* from this class.

#### **Materials/Equipment**

Students should have their own external Thunderbolt/USB3 drive for their project work for this and other DC classes. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained.

**Project Naming Conventions:** Lastname\_firstinitial\_projectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

## **Instructor Information**

### **Email**

[rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu)

### **Office Hours**

Monday 3:00pm-5:30pm. CDM 600a

Tuesday 4:30-5:30pm in CDM 600a

## **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of DC415, students will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of dialogue, sound effects and music elements to a film.
2. Construct the elements for audio post-production session of any complexity.
3. Record, edit, and mix all of the elements for the final film production.
4. Document and conform for revision in a recording, editing or mixing session.
5. Create a polished final sound mix as a deliverable.

## **Grading**

Attendance 20 points, GLE Project 40 Points (See GLE Project Description for details). Speed Dating Sound Design Project project 40 points (See Speed Dating Sound Design Project Description for details).

A = 100-93, A- = 92-90, B+ = 89-88, B = 87-83, B- = 82-80, C+ = 79-78, C = 77-73, C- = 72-70, D+ = 69-68, D = 67-63, D- = 62-60, F = 59-0. A indicates excellence, B indicates good work, C indicates satisfactory work, D work is unsatisfactory in some respect, F is substantially unsatisfactory work.

## **Late Papers/Projects**

Late papers and projects are not accepted. If there is an emergency, proper documentation is required.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is mandatory. Each class will include lecture, screening, discussion and software training. Missing a class or being late will be detrimental to the learning process.

## **Class 1, 3.29**

Candidate teaching presentation 10:00-10:20

Cover syllabus, D2L, Lynda.com and expectations in class. Please note: This syllabus is subject to change.

You must be trained in the studios by manager Adam Carl no later than 4.19.16. Please contact him at [scasoundstudio@cdm.depaul.edu](mailto:scasoundstudio@cdm.depaul.edu)

Pro Tools Basics

GLE: Introduction and the nature of collaboration

GLE: Introduction Video

GLE: Review project guidelines

GLE: Team Assignments

GLE: Potential collaborative technologies

Ashanti Morgan (Arrives at 11:00am): Course Designer

Meet in groups to write project plans

**Homework Due 4.5.16:**

**Note #1: See GLE Project Description for further details.**

**Notes #2: It is your responsibility to reach out to your collaborators in Dundee.**

**GLE Project 1: Project Plan Due 4.5.16:** Deliver a plan of dates and tasks. You choose the plan deliverables in terms of technology. I need to understand in detail what you are accomplishing, when you are accomplishing it, how you are accomplishing it and why you are accomplishing it.

**GLE Project 2: Photographic Essay Due 4.5.16:** What does Chicago sound like? Take 20 photographs of Chicago where the sound is as important as the image.

**GLE Project 3: Soundscape Due 4.5.16:** In Project 3 you will work in assigned groups of 2-3 to produce a self-directed soundscape of the city. You should create a digital mood or ideas board – which might include text, images, sound recordings, music and video – that pulls together what you think are the key sounds and features of Dundee, and use this to create a sound list and a short production plan. Bullet points are fine for plan and list. Deliver 24/48 wav at exactly 5-minutes.

**GLE Project 6a: Discussion Board Due 4.5.16:** I have created discussion boards for each week of the project. In a 100 words or less for each weekly post, let the class know how it is going. What are the challenges? What are the successes? What are the surprises? Everyone in class will be required to post to the board. This is an individual assignment, not a team assignment as each one of you will have different take-aways.

## **Class 2, 4.5**

View clips

GLE Project 1, 2, 3 Discussion and Critique

Recording BG's and SFX.

Pro Tools Review

**Homework due 4.12.16:**

**Note: See GLE Project Description for further details.**

**GLE Project 4: Field Recording:** Record 15-minutes of elemental Chicago sounds. Consult with your Abertay collaborators on what to record. Deliver 24/48 unedited wavs to D2L dropbox and Abertay collaborators.

**GLE Project 6b: Discussion Board:** I have created discussion boards for each week of the project. In a 100 words or less for each weekly post, let the class know how it is going. What are the challenges? What are the successes? What are the surprises? Everyone in class will be required to post to the board. This is an individual assignment, not a team assignment as each on of you will have different take-aways.

## **Class 3, 4.12**

Sound Basics Review

GLE Discussion

GLE Project 4 Critiques

**Homework due 4.19.16:**

Reading Holman pages 1-54

**Note: See GLE Project Description for further details.**

**GLE Project 5: Abertay/DePaul Collaborative Soundscape**

See GLE Project Description for details. Deliver 24/48 wav at exactly 5-minutes.

**GLE Project 6c: Discussion Board:** I have created discussion boards for each week of the project. In a 100 words or less for each weekly post, let the class know how it is going. What are the challenges? What are the successes? What are the surprises? Everyone in class will be required to post to the board. This is an individual assignment, not a team assignment as each on of you will have different take-aways.

## **Class 4, 4.19,**

GLE Project 5 Critiques

Know your DSP: Listening

### **Homework:**

Holman pages 55-104

**Note: See GLE Project Description for further details.**

### **GLE Project 7: Reflection Video Due 4.26.16: 5 points**

Following the creation of your soundscapes, you should submit an individual reflective video of at least 7-minutes that focuses on your experience of the technologically-mediated collaboration, and how this has impacted on your work.

Watch Speed Dating (no audio)

## **Class 5, 4.26**

Guest Artist: Meghann Artes, Director of Speed Dating

Speed Dating Spotting Session 1: Tone

Speed Dating Spotting Session 2: Backgrounds

Speed Dating Spotting Session 3: Dialogue

Speed Dating Spotting Session 4: SFX

Review Speed Dating Project Plan and group assignments

Grads will work as one team but each student will deliver their own final mix.

ADR Workshop 1 in CDM 724

### **Homework:**

Holman pages 121-144

Record or select all backgrounds for Speed Dating and present a rough BG mix on 5.3

### **Class 6, 5.3**

Speed Dating Background Critiques

ADR Workshop 2 in CDM 724

#### **Homework:**

Holman pages 145-170

Record all mouth sounds for Speed Dating and present a rough DX mix on 5.10

### **Class 7, 5.10**

Speed Dating Mouth Sound Critiques

Foley Workshop in CDM 724

#### **Homework:**

Holman pages 171-202

Record all Foley for Speed Dating

Import all hard and library sfx.

### **Class 8, 5.17**

Speed Dating Foley and Hard FX Critiques

The process of Scoring Speed Dating

Mixing 101

Introduction to CDM 600a

#### **Homework:**

Import all mx stems into the session.

Prepare a rough mix of Speed Dating.

### **Class 9, 5.24**

Mixing 102

Speed Dating Rough Mix Critiques 1

#### **Homework:**

Speed Dating Mix

### **Class 10, 5.31**

Speed Dating Rough Mix Critiques 2

#### **Homework:**

Speed Dating Mix

### **Speed Dating Final Mixes due 6.7**

20-minute individual project critiques will be scheduled from 10-5 on 6.7. These are required and you must schedule one. Do not book flights and do not plan on leaving Chicago early. If you do not attend a critique, you will get a 0 on the project.

School policies:

### Online Instructor Evaluation

Course and instructor evaluations are critical for maintaining and improving course quality. To make evaluations as meaningful as possible, we need 100% student participation. Therefore, participation in the School's web-based academic administration initiative during the eighth and ninth week of this course is a requirement of this course. Failure to participate in this process will result in a grade of incomplete for the course. This incomplete will be automatically removed within seven weeks after the end of the course and replaced by the grade you would have received if you had fulfilled this requirement.

### Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

### Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the academic integrity policy.

### Plagiarism

The university and school policy on plagiarism can be summarized as follows: Students in this course, as well as all other courses in which independent research or writing play a vital part in the course requirements, should be aware of the strong sanctions that can be imposed against someone guilty of plagiarism. If proven, a charge of plagiarism could result in an automatic F in the course and possible expulsion. The strongest of sanctions will be imposed on anyone who submits as his/her own work a report, examination paper, computer file, lab report, or other assignment which has been prepared by someone else. If you have any questions or doubts about what plagiarism entails or how to properly acknowledge source materials be sure to consult the instructor.

### Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two weeks before the final, and approved by the Dean of the School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.