DC316 Topics in Post-Production Sound: Advanced Film Scoring

Syllabus Spring 17

Rob Steel

Tuesday, 5:45-9:00

DePaul CDM 526

<u>**General Course Information**</u>

Course description:
Advanced study in post-production sound focusing on a specific area each quarter such as: A.D.R., Foley, Scoring, Sound Effects, Mixing, etc. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: DC 215 or by consent of the instructor.
This is a lecture/lab course.

Course Management Systems:
D2L and Lynda.com

Tutorials and printed resources:
These materials are available on D2L.

Software:
Logic X will be the main software we work with in this class. Labs which include Logic X are CDM 526, CDM 922, CDM 9th floor IMacs, C106C and the Editing Suites in the basement of the DePaul Center, and the DePaul Student Center 331 on the 3rd floor of the student center.

Drop dates:
4.7.17 is the last day to drop this class with no penalty.
5.12.17 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_first initial_projectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

<u>**Instructor Information**</u>

Email
rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours
Mondays 4:45-5:45 in CDM 922
Tuesdays 9:00am-10:00am. Online via Skype. Skype name is robertmsteel.
Tuesdays 12:00pm-1:00pm in STDCT 330.
Tuesdays 5:15pm-5:45pm in CDM 526.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze a film score in terms of its technical musical components.
2. Compose in the style of seminal film composers.
3. Compose using MIDI in a digital audio workstation.
4. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the director/composer relationship.
5. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.
6. Understand basic music theory.

Grading

Attendance/Participation/Behavior/No in-class cell phone usage/No internet usage during class unless authorized: 20 points, Project #1: 10 points, Project #2/Banks: 10 Points, Project #2/Draft #1: 10 points, Project #2/Draft #2: 10 points, Project #2/Final: 40 points   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.

Week-By-Week

Class 1, 3.28

Review syllabus, expectations in class. D2L (Content, Dropbox and Grades). Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

Clips

The Functions of Film Music

Logic X Review

Homework Due 4.4 by 5:45

Reading: **Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People, pages 1-17**

Optional: Lynda.com Logic Pro X Essential Training by Scott Hirsch
3. Making Music in Logic

Class 2, 4.4

Composer spotlight: Bernard Hermann

Homework Due 4.11 by 5:45

Reading: **Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People, pages 18-30**

Optional: Lynda.com Logic Pro X Essential Training by Scott Hirsch
4. Recording MIDI
5. Editing and Arranging MIDI

Read Project #2 shooting script.

Class 3, 4.11

Composer spotlight: Ennio Morricone

Homework Due 4.18 by 5:45

Reading: **Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People, pages 31-41**

Optional: Lynda.com Logic Pro X Essential Training by Scott Hirsch
9. Working with Notation
12. Mixing and Mastering

View Project #2 in its entirety.

Class 4, 4.18

Composer spotlight: Hans Zimmer

Expressive functions in Logic X

Homework Due 4.25 by 5:45

Reading: **Music Theory for Musicians and Normal People, pages 42-51**

Video Link**: Behind the Scenes of a Film Score MIDI Mockup**

Project #1: Write a two-minute piece of music in the style of any composer featured in the Composer Spotlight. Deliver 24/48 Wav.

Read Project #2 shooting script.

Class 5, 4.25

Project #1 Critiques

Project #2 Introduction: **Gravity**

How do we arrive at a model? Listening.

How to prepare for a spotting session

Homework Due 5.2 by 5:45

Video Links**: Ironwind- A Guide to Midi Orchestration (Parts 1-4), Make MIDI Sound Real (Parts1-2)**

Prepare to spot Project #2, for Class 6.

View Project #2 in its entirety.

Class 6, 5.2

Project #2 Spotting

Homework Due 5.9 by 5:45

Class 7, 5.9

Project #2 Spotting

Finalize score concept

Working with video (Codecs, time code, ingest and synchronization)

Homework Due 5.16 by 5:45

Project #2/Banks: Compose three one-minute non-sync banks that you will use as material for Project #2. Deliver 24/48 Wav.

Class 8, 5.16

Project #2/Banks Critiques

Working with deliverables (Print stems, levels and QC)

Homework Due 5.23 by 5:45

Project #2/Draft #1: Compose a score for assigned clip. Deliver 24/48 Quicktime.

Class 9, 5.23

Project #2/Draft #1 Critiques

Homework Due 5.30 by 5:45

Project #2/Draft #2: Refine score for assigned clip. Deliver 24/48 Quicktime.

Class 10, 5.30

Project #2/Draft #2 Critiques

Homework Due 6.6 by 9:00am

Project #2 Final. Refine score for assigned clip. Deliver 24/48 Quicktime.

Final Presentations, 6.6, 5:45-9pm

Project #2/Final Presentations

Course Policies

Electronic Devices

There is a no tolerance policy on electronic device usage in the classroom. Cell phone/tablet usage and/or internet usage during class will result in 0 attendance points for the day. It is distracting to others around you. You may take notes on a computer using word or text edit (do not browse the internet) but not on a cellphone/tablet.

Late Papers/Projects

Late papers and projects are not accepted. If there is an emergency, proper documentation is required before the deadline of the assignment.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for attendance drops 1 point after any unexcused absence. Four absences for any reason, whether excused or not, will constitute failure for the course.

Attitude

A professional and academic attitude is expected throughout this course. Measurable examples of non-academic or unprofessional attitude include but are not limited to: talking to others when the instructor is speaking, mocking another's opinion, cell phones ringing, emailing, texting or using the internet whether on a phone or computer. If any issues arise a student may be asked to leave the classroom. The professor will work with the Dean of Students Office to navigate such student issues.

Civil Discourse

DePaul University is a community that thrives on open discourse that challenges students, both intellectually and personally, to be Socially Responsible Leaders. It is the expectation that all dialogue in this course is civil and respectful of the dignity of each student. Any instances of disrespect or hostility can jeopardize a student's ability to be successful in the course. The professor will partner with the Dean of Students Office to assist in managing such issues.

Cell Phones/On Call

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undisruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

Changes to Syllabus

This syllabus is subject to change as necessary during the quarter. If a change occurs, it will be thoroughly addressed during class, posted under Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

Online Course Evaluations

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their instructor and the course. Detailed feedback will enable the instructor to continuously tailor teaching methods and course content to meet the learning goals of the course and the academic needs of the students.

They are a requirement of the course and are key to continue to provide you with the highest quality of teaching. The evaluations are anonymous; the instructor and administration do not track who entered what responses. A program is used to check if the student completed the evaluations, but the evaluation is completely separate from the student's identity. Since 100% participation is our goal, students are sent periodic reminders over three weeks. Students do not receive reminders once they complete the evaluation. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

Academic Policies

All students are required to manage their class schedules each term in accordance with the deadlines for enrolling and withdrawing as indicated in the University Academic Calendar. Information on enrollment, withdrawal, grading and incompletes can be found at: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential. To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296