

DC215 Introduction to Sound Design

Syllabus Autumn 2017

Rob Steel

Tuesday/Thursday, 9:40AM-11:10AM

DePaul Lincoln Park Student Center 331

General Course Information

Course description:

This course is an introduction to sound editing and sound design. The course examines the place of sound in cinema, both artistic and technological. The course will cover the basics of sound, microphones, and analogue-to-digital conversion. Lectures, readings, and film clips will be used to illustrate the language of film sound, as practiced by film directors, sound designers, and editors. Students will learn to edit sound assignments with Pro Tools and current technologies. Prerequisites: None

This is a lecture/lab course.

Course Management Systems:

D2L and Lynda.com

Tutorials and printed resources:

These materials are available on D2L.

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 3rd floor of the student center.

Drop dates:

9.19.17 is the last day to drop this class with no penalty.

10.24.17 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. You cannot bounce a Pro Tools session from a USB 2 drive.

Project Naming Conventions: DC215lastnamefirstinitialprojectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

Instructor Information

Email

rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours

Tuesday 11:20am-2:20am in DePaul Lincoln Park Student Center 332

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically analyze a film in terms of its aesthetic and technical sound components.
2. Plan and create an original sound design for a short film.
3. Record original sound effects, backgrounds, and voice recordings.
4. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film.
5. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.
6. Understand the basic physics of sound.

Grading

Attendance/Participation/Behavior/No in-class cell phone usage/No internet usage during class unless authorized: 20 points, Webcam Self-Interview #1 #1: 5 points, Webcam Self-Interview #2: 5 points, Project #1: 15 points, Project #2: 15 points, Project #3 Early Look: 5 Points, Project #3: 15 Points, Written Quizzes: 10 points, Pro Tools Practical Quizzes: 10 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.

Class-by-Class

Class 1, Thu, Sept 7

Clip(s)

Review syllabus, expectations in class. Please note: this syllabus is subject to change. D2L.

What do you hear? Listening and writing. How does sound help tell the story?

Homework Due 9.12 by 9:40am

Reading: Behind the Art by Randy Thom, Designing for Sound, Open Letter from Your Sound Department, Rain is Sizzling Bacon, Real Basic Audio Stuff, A Conspiracy of Sound

First Day Questionnaire

Class 2, Tue, Sept 12

Clip(s)

Pro Tools 1

Homework Due 9.14 by 9:40am

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (Introduction, 1. Getting to Know Pro Tools)

<https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Webcam Self-Interview 1: Pick a specific space in your residence (This should take place in your bedroom, living room, kitchen or bathroom. This experience should not take place in a public or common space). Sit there for 30 minutes or so and begin noting what you hear. Record a 2-minute analysis describing what you hear around you and how you your perceptions of sound are altered. Please state your name and the project name at the top of the video. Deliver QuickTime Video.

Class 3, Thu, Sept 14

Clip(s)

Sound Basics

Homework Due 9.19 by 9:40am

Reading: 11 Great Filmmakers_Sound_Parts 1-2, Sound by Chris Woodford

Class 4, Tue, Sept 19

Clip(s)

Pro Tools 2

Homework Due 9.21 by 9:40am

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (2. Getting Inside Pro Tools, 3. Creating Your First Session) <https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Class 5, Thu, Sept 21

Clip(s)

The Four Dimensions of a Soundtrack

Homework Due 9.26 by 9:40am

Reading: 10 Things About Sound You May Not Know, 8 Practical Pro Tools Shortcuts, Managing Your Pro Tools Projects, 10 Quick Editing Tips, Behind the Art_Pelayo Gutierrez

Class 6, Tue, Sept 26

Clip(s)

The Four Dimensions of a Soundtrack

Pro Tools Basics 2

Homework Due 9.28 by 9:40am

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (5. Importing and Working with Media in a Session, 7. Selecting and Navigating) <https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Class 7, Thu, Sept 28

Clip(s)

Project 1 Critiques

Microphones Part 1 - Lecture/Demo

Homework Due 10.3 by 9:40am

Reading: Behind the Art_Nicholas Becker, Behind the Art_Tim Prebble, Using Microphone Polar Patterns Effectively, 9 Sound Design Tricks To Hack Your Listener's Ears

Project 1: Tell a story through sound in 1 minute using Pro Tools. No music, no dialogue allowed. Deliver Wav, 24/48.

Class 8, Tue, Oct 3

Clip(s)

Microphones Part 2- Lecture/Demo/Recording exercise

Homework Due 10.5 by 9:40am

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (8. Basic Editing Techniques)
<https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Class 9, Thu, Oct 5

Clip(s)

Production Sound Basics Part 1

Homework Due 10.10 by 9:40am

Reading: 5 Tricks to Record Better Atmospheres, An Introduction to Gathering SFX, Designing Sound_Backgrounds, How To Record Your Own Foley Tracks at Home, Quick Tip_Using Markers, Room Tone_Emotional Tone, The Sonic Playground_Hollywood Cinema and its Listeners

Webcam Self-Interview 2: Choose 20 to 30 minute sequence from any movie and record a 3-minute analysis of the use of sound- how does sound help tell the story? Please state your name and the project name at the top of the video. Deliver QuickTime Video.

Class 10, Tue, Oct 10

Clip(s)

Production Sound Basics Part 2

In class recording exercises (Each team needs to bring the following gear: H4, Boom pole, Headphones, MKH50/416/ME66/Me67/Rode NTG 2 or 3, shock mount and an xlr cable. Please test all of the equipment.)

Quiz Review

Homework Due 10.24 by 9:40am

Project 2: Team Field-recording project. Details on D2L. (Due 10.24 by 9:40am)

Class 11 Thu, Oct 12

Written Quiz #1 (30-minute limit)

Clip(s)

Class 12, Tue, Oct 17

Pro Tools Practical Quiz #1 (1-hour limit)

Clip(s)

Homework Due 10.19 by 9:40am

Reading: 8 Steps to Better EQ, The Beginner's Guide to Compression, Using Playlists, Karen Baker Landers and Per Hallberg_Supervising Sound Editors

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (9. Basic Mixing Techniques)
<https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Project 2: Team Field-recording project. Details on D2L. (Due 10.24 by 9:40am)

Class 13, Thu, Oct 19

Audio Post Production

Homework Due 10.24 by 9:40am

Reading: Deciphering the Film Slate

Project 2: Team Field-recording project. Details on D2L. (Due 10.24 by 9:40am)

Class 14, Tue, Oct 24

Team Field-recording critiques

Time code and sync

Project 3 introduction

Homework Due 10.26 by 9:40am

Video: Demystifying Time code: Parts 1 and 2 (Please download as these won't play in D2L)

Lynda.com: Pro Tools 12 Essential Training: 101 by Frank Cook (4. Making Your First Audio Recording, 10. Finishing Your Work)
<https://www.lynda.com/Pro-Tools-tutorials/Pro-Tools-12-Essential-Training-101/533108-2.html?org=depaul.edu>

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project. Details on D2L. (Early look due 11.9)

Class 15, Thu, Oct 26 (Meet in CDM 724)

Introduction to the Sound Studio

Recording Exercises

Homework Due 10.31 by 9:40am

Reading: De-essing, How to Use a Parametric Equalizer

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project. Details on D2L. (Early look due 11.9)

Class 16, Tue, Oct 31 (Meet in CDM 724)

Recording Exercises in the Sound Studio

Homework Due 11.2 by 9:40am

Video: Faster EQ and Compression in Pro Tools, Pro Tools Basics: Lessons 9-12, Understanding a Compressor

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project. Details on D2L. (Early look due 11.9)

Class 17, Thu, Nov 2

DSP and Signal Flow

Pro Tools

Quiz Review

Homework Due 11.7 by 9:40am

Reading: Pro Tools OMF's and the Audio Post Workflow, Using Automation in Pro Tools

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project. Details on D2L. (Early look due 11.9)

Class 18, Tue, Nov 7

Written Quiz #2 (30-minute limit)

Mixing

Pro Tools

Homework Due 11.9 by 9:40am

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project. Details on D2L. (Early look due 11.9)

Class 19, Thu, Nov 9

Pro Tools Practical Quiz #2 (1-hour limit)

Project 3 Early Looks (Provide one completed minute of Project 3)

Homework Due 11.14 by 9:40am

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project (Due 11.17)

Class 20, Tue, Nov 14

Project 3 Early Looks (Provide one completed minute of Project 3)

Homework Due 11.17 by noon

Project 3: Sound effects editing/mixing project (Due 11.17)

Course Policies

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 undistruptive 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 [Campus Connect](#).

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.

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