

**DC215 sec502 Syllabus Winter '18 Mike Mitchell**  
**mmitch23@cdm.depaul.edu**  
**Office hours (CDM rm.522): Thurs., 1:30-3pm**  
**Classroom (CDM rm.922): Tues. & Thurs., 11:50am-1:20pm**

### **Summary of the course**

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.

### **Materials/Equipment**

Students need an external hard drive with a USB 3.0 interface. A minimum of 50 GB is recommended. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained. **DO NOT WORK OFF OF YOUR EXTERNAL DRIVES!**

### **Textbooks and printed resources**

Recommended books:

*The Sound Effects Bible* by Ric Viers.

### **COURSE OUTLINE:**

- |               |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> | <b>1/2</b>  | Review syllabus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|               | <b>1/4</b>  | Pro-Tools basics 1. In class editing exercise.<br>HOMEWORK: Paper #1 ( <b>DUE 1/11</b> ) LISTENING TO LIFE. Listen to the environment around you. 1 1/2 to 2 pages. Informal reflection paper... what do you hear?                                     |
| <b>Week 2</b> | <b>1/9</b>  | Sound Basics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|               | <b>1/11</b> | Pro-Tools basics 2. In class editing exercise.<br>HOMEWORK: Project #1 ( <b>DUE 1/25</b> ) "Images" Non-objective sound design.                                                                                                                        |
|               | <b>1/16</b> | Lab: In class work on "Images" assignment.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|               | <b>1/18</b> | Audio Post Production<br>HOMEWORK: Paper #2 ( <b>DUE 2/1</b> ) Choose a 15 to 20 minute sequence from any movie and write a 2 page analysis of the use of sound- how does sound help tell the story? What is the sound designer and director's intent? |
|               | <b>1/23</b> | Pro Tools basics 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|               | <b>1/25</b> | Microphones<br>Screen and discuss Project #1                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|               | <b>1/30</b> | Field Recording exercise                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|               | <b>2/1</b>  | Project #2 ( <b>DUE 2/15</b> )<br>Midterm review                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|               | <b>2/6</b>  | <b>Midterm</b> (based on lectures, discussions, and film clips shown in class)                                                                                                                                                                         |
|               | <b>2/8</b>  | Lab: In class work on Project #2                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

- 2/13 Watch Film (TBD)  
Lab: In class work on Project #2
- 2/15 Screen and discuss Project #2
- 2/20 Signal Flow  
HOMEWORK: Final Project (**DUE 3/6**)
- 2/22 Lab: In class work on Final Project
- 2/27 Intro to Sound Studio
- 3/1 Intro to Sound Studio
- 3/6 Screen and discuss the Final Project  
**FINAL QUIZ pt.1 - Pro Tools Proficiency**
- 3/8 **FINAL QUIZ pt.2 - Written**

**\* This syllabus is subject to change at the teacher's discretion.**

### **Papers**

All papers are to be typed in 12 pt. font and double-spaced. Late papers will be marked down 1/2 letter grade for everyday past the due date. Turn papers in to the D2L Dropbox with the following naming convention:

**Lastname\_DC215\_paper1 (or 2).** Projects will follow the same naming convention.

### **Grading**

Attendance/Participation 10%, Analysis papers 15%, Midterm Exam 20%, Final Quiz 10%, Projects 45%

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.

### **Attendance**

It is crucial that you do your best to make it on time for each class. After two absences a doctor's note is required. If a doctor's note is not provided for the third (and any subsequent) absence, a half letter grade will be deducted per class missed.

### **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.**