DC312 Scoring for Film and Video

Syllabus Winter 2018

Rob Steel

Wednesday 5:45-9:00pm

DePaul CDM 922

General Course Information

Course description
This course serves as an introduction to scoring for film and video. The three tracks of study include training on Logic to score video/film, exploring the basic techniques of film scoring and learning how to listen to music within the context of cinema. Students will listen to music in and out of context of film to develop a palette that will serve their work in scoring. Students will also be analyzing film soundtracks that will allow them to understand different techniques and aesthetics in scoring. Students will score several short video clips. Prerequisite: DC 215

This is a lecture/lab course.

Course Management Systems/Tools
D2L and Lynda.com (Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch)

Tutorials and printed resources
These materials are available on D2L, via Dropbox download link and Lynda.com.

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 MAC Lab on the 3rd floor of the student center. If you want to score using another DAW, please feel free.

Drop dates:
1.15.18 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.
2.19.18 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.

Text
Guerilla Film Scoring by Jeremy Borum
Publisher: Rowman and Littlefield; (2015)
ISBN-13: 978-1-4422-3729-2

Project Naming Conventions: DC312lastnamefirstinitialprojectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

Instructor Information

Email
rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu

Office Hours
By appointment only. If none of these times do not work for you, please let me know.
Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 in CDM 600A
Wednesdays 9:00am-11:00am. Online via Skype. Skype name is robertmsteel.

Advising Hours
By appointment only. If none of these times do not work for you, please let me know.
Wednesdays 2:30pm-5:30pm in CDM 600A.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of DC312, students will be able to:

1. Analyze and critique the uses of music in Cinema.
2. Use a digital audio workstation to compose music using audio files.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the basic concepts of MIDI.
4. Compose music for short film clips.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the needs of film in the scoring workflow.

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: 15 Points, Project 3: 15 points, Project 4: 15 points, Project 5: 25 points. A 93-100 Excellent work A- 90-92 B+ 87-89 B 83-86 Above satisfactory work B- 80-82C+ 77-79 C 73-76 Satisfactory/good work C- 70-72D+ 67-69 D 63-66 Unsatisfactory work D- 60-62F 59-61 Substantially unsatisfactory work

Week-By-Week

Class 1, 1.3

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

What do you hear? Listening and writing.

Screening: Docs on film composers

Logic: Basics 1

Homework Due 1.10 by 5:45pm

Reading: Karlin Analysis Method document, The Evolution of Music in Film.

Lynda.com: Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch (Introduction, 1. Getting Started with Logic Pro X, 2. Establishing a Workflow)

Class 2, 1.10

Karlin Method overview

Screening: clips

Theory basics

Logic: Basics 2

Homework Due 1.17 by 5:45pm

Reading: Borum/Part 1: Preproduction, pages 3-50

Project 1: Compose a 2-minute piece using Logic. Deliver in WAV, stereo interleaved, 24/48.

Lynda.com: Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch (Introduction, 1. Getting Started with Logic Pro X, 2. Establishing a Workflow)

Class 3, 1.17

Introduction, screening/commentary: **Vertigo**

Homework Due 1.24 by 5:45pm

Reading: Borum/Part 2: Production, pages 53-139

Lynda.com: Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch (3. Making Music with Logic)

Class 4, 1.24

The Scoring Process

Homework Due 1.31 by 5:45pm

Reading: Borum/Part 3: Postproduction, pages 143-218, T-Bone Burnett/ The Art of Matching Music with Movies.

Lynda.com: Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch (4. Recording MIDI, 6. Composing with Samples and Apple Loops, and Exploring Tempo and Pitch)

Class 5, 1.31

Electronic Music in Cinema and Virtual Instruments

Homework Due 2.7 by 5:45pm

Reading: Borum/Appendixes, pages 219-232, IntroMidi.

Lynda.com: Logic Pro X Essential Training with Scott Hirsch (5. Editing and Arranging MIDI, 10. Working with Picture and to and from FCP, 12. Mixing and Mastering, 13. Exporting, Sharing, and Other Application Workflows)

Class 6, 2.7

<u>Workshop 1: The beginning</u>

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework Due 2.14 by 5:45pm

Reading: Setting up Logic for Scoring to Video, Top 10 Soundtrack, Sampling Giveaways and Score and Music Mistakes made by Filmmakers, 20 Famous Movie Scenes Made Better By Great Song Choices.

Project 2: Score the beginning of assigned movie. Deliver Quicktime.

Class 7, 2.14

<u>Workshop 2: The ending</u>

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework Due 2.21 by 5:45pm

Project 3: Score the ending of assigned movie. Deliver Quicktime.

Project 5: Score assigned film. (1-Minute Early Look due 3.7, Final due 3.14)

Class 8, 2.21

<u>Workshop 3: Action</u>

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework Due 2.28 by 5:45pm

Project 4: Score assigned action sequence from film. Deliver Quicktime.

Project 5: Score assigned film. (1-Minute Early Look due 3.7, Final due 3.14)

Class 9, 2.28

Workshop 4: Time, Place and Space

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework Due 3.7 by 5:45pm

Project 5: Score assigned film. (1-Minute Early Look due 3.7, Final due 3.14)

Class 10, 3.7

Tension Lecture and screenings

Project 5 Early Looks

Homework Due 3.14 by 5:45pm

Project 5: Score assigned film

Final Critiques, 3.14, 5:45-9

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 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.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (312)362-8002
Fax: (312)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296