

# POST 124: Sound Design I

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## Course Description

This course is an introduction to the principles of digital audio and the methods employed to create, edit, and deliver sound for film. The course examines the place of sound in film, both artistic and technological. The course will cover the basics of sound in the physical and digital realm, sound effects editing, and sound effects delivery. Lectures, discussions, and videos will be used to examine the art and the process of adding sound to film. Students will learn to edit sound assignments with Pro Tools and current technologies.

Prerequisites: None

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically analyze a film in terms of aesthetic and technical sound component
- Plan and create original sound design for a short film
- Record original sound effects, Backgrounds, and voice recordings
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film
- Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.
- Understand the basics physics of sound

## COURSE INFO

All Assignments must be submitted to D2L

## INSTRUCTOR INFO

**Derek Katzer**

dkatzer@cdm.depaul.edu

## COURSE LECTURE

Monday & Wednesday  
9:40AM – 11:10AM  
STDCT 331

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday  
11:20 – 12:50  
STDCT 332

4:15 – 5:45  
CDM 429

# Course Information

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## **Course Management Systems/Tools**

Course information, tutorial videos, and printed materials are all available on D2L:

<https://d2l.depaul.edu>

## **Software**

Pro Tools will be the main software we work with in this class. The University will be providing licenses to students.

## **Materials/Equipment**

DePaul University has an enterprise One Account. All projects can be stored on One Drive. More information and login details can be accessed at: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/onedrive/online-cloud-storage>

## **Project/Assignment Naming Conventions:**

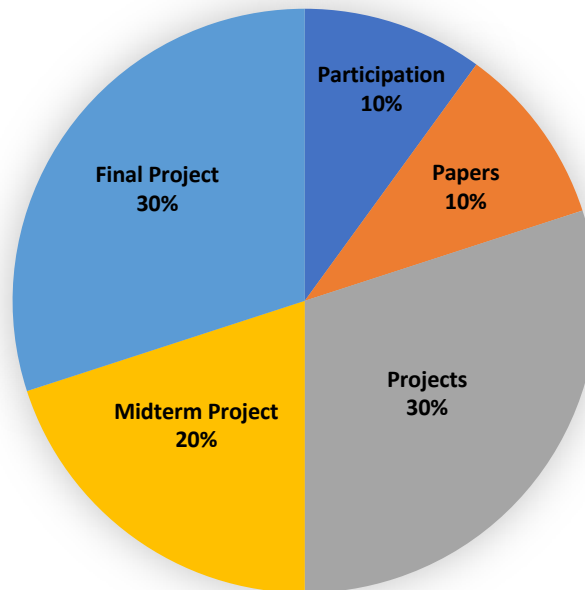
POST 124 LastnameFirstinitial Project name:  
E.G **POST 124 KatzerD Project 1**

Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project or assignment grade.

## Course Information (Cont.)

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### Grade Breakdown



#### Final Project Breakdown

Early Look 1: 5%  
Early Look 2: 5%  
Final Submitted Project 20%

#### Projects Breakdown

Project 1: 10%  
Project 2: 15%  
Project 3: 5%

#### Grade Points:

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>
100-93	92-90	89-88	87-83	82-80	79-78
<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>F</b>
77-73	72-70	69-68	67-63	62-60	59-0

**Late work is not accepted.** In case of illness, please let me know.

**Corrupted files and submissions to an incorrect dropbox will result in a zero.**

**Class 1    The Four Dimensions of the Soundtrack**  
**Explain the Syllabus and Class Expectations**  
**Sound Basics**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Paper 1:** Pick a specific location in your residence and listen for 30 minutes. Note what you hear during that time and your reaction to that sound and how your perceptions of sound have changed.

**9/13**

Requirements:  
500 Word Minimum  
Essay Format

**Reading (Available on D2L):**  
Rain is Sizzling Bacon  
Designing for Sound

**Class 2**  
**9/13**    **File Formats**  
          **Pro Tools Basics 1**  
          **Discuss Project 1**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Project 1**: One-minute clip of audio design made to tell a story. You may not use music, unless it is diegetic, or dialog that is more than Walla/grunts.

**9/22**

**Class 3**  
**9/15**    **Sound Physics! (Why does  $v = \lambda f$ ?)**  
          **Pro Tools Basics 2**  
          **Discuss Project 1**  
          **(Possible Class Cancel Due to Film Set)**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading (Available on D2L):**  
**Let's Talk About Waveforms**

**9/20**

**Class 4**  
**9/20**     **Faders and Panning**  
**Sound Design Step by Step**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading (Available on D2L):**  
Managing Your Pro Tools Projects

**9/22**

**Class 5**  
**9/22**     **Timecode**  
**Exporting Video/Pro Tools 5 Basics**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Project 2:** Syncing environmental sound effects to a video project. Space and Time are important concepts for this project

**9/29**

**Project Requirements:**  
Audio: 48k/24bit Stereo Video: QuickTime Mov File

**Class 6**  
**9/27**    **Introduce Midterm**  
**Audio Post-Production**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading (Available on D2L):**  
8 steps to Better EQ  
The Beginner's Guide to Compression  
Using Playlist

**9/29**

**Class 7**  
**9/29**    **Compression**  
**Auxes and Busses**  
**Critique Project 2**  
**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Midterm Project Due**

**10/06**

**Class 8**   **Midterm Exam**  
**10/04**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Midterm Project Due**

**10/06**

**Class 9**   **Microphones Part 1 Lecture/Demo**  
**10/06**   **Pro Tools Advanced 2**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Paper 2:** Choose a 20 to 30-minute sequence from any movie and write a 500-word analysis of the sound design of that clip. Utilize the terminology we've learned about in class to discuss the sound design.

**10/11**



**Class 10** **Microphones Part 2**  
**10/11** **Sound Studio Workshop**

**Introduce Recording Exercises**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading:**

**10/13**

Deciphering the film Slate

An introduction to gathering SFX

**Class 11** **Recording Workshop**  
**10/13** **Introduction of Final Project**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Project 3:** Field Recording/SFX recording exercise  
Details on D2L.

**10/20**

**Class 12 Midterm Critiques**  
**10/18**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading:**  
De-essing  
How to use a Parametric Equalizer

**10/20**

**Class 13 Recording Exercise Critiques**  
**10/20**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project – Early Look 1**

**10/27**

**Class 14** **Pro Tools Advanced 3**  
**10/25** **In-Class Exercise**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Reading:**  
Designing Sound Backgrounds  
**Final Project:** Early Look 1 Due

**10/27**

**Class 15** **Signal Flow, DSP, and Mixing**  
**10/27** **In-Class work on Final**  
**Early Look 1 Critiques**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Early Look 2

**11/03**

**Class 16** **One on One Project Critiques**  
**11/01** **Early Look 1 Critiques**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Early Look Critiques 2

**11/03**

**Class 17** **Pro Tools Advanced 4**  
**11/03** **Early Look 2 Critiques**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Deliverables/Pro Tools Session

**11/17**

**Class 18** **In Class Work on Final projects**  
**11/08** **Early Look 2 Critiques**  
**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Deliverables/Pro Tools Session

**11/17**

**Class 19** **In Class Work on Final projects**  
**11/10** **Pro Tools Advanced - Magic**  
**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Deliverables/Pro Tools Session

**11/17**

**FINAL EXAM CLASS: 11/17 - 8:30 – 10:45am**

**Class 20 Final Quiz**

**11/15 In Class Work/Pro Tools Round Up**

**Homework**

**Due Date**

**Final Project:** Deliverables/Pro Tools Session

**11/17**

**FINAL EXAM CLASS: 11/17 - 8:30 – 10:45am**

# Course Policies

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## 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.

## COVID 19 Health and Safety Precautions

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to **(1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus; (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms;** (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions; (4) stay home if sick; (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing; (6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training; and (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory. By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

## 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. Please see <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx> for additional information.

## **Academic Integrity and Plagiarism**

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

## **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: <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx>

## **Incomplete Grades**

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at <http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

## **Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns**

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at <http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332>



## **Students with Disabilities**

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

Please see <https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx> for Services and Contact Information.