

POST 224 – SOUND DESIGN II
SYLLABUS – WINTER 2023 – v3

Meeting Times: Tuesdays 1:30 PM – 4:45 PM

- **Location:** CDM 526

Instructor: Jeff Kliment j.kliment@depaul.edu

- **Office Hours:** Tuesdays, Noon – 1:00 PM (by appointment – see BlueStar for details)
- **Office Location:** CDM 430

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course expands on topics covered in Post 124. Emphasis will be on mixing and editing techniques for music and sound effects. Coursework also includes the recording of natural sounds and special effects to reinforce images and the story. The course is intended for advanced students who wish to develop their skills and gain more experience in preparing and mixing sound tracks for traditional as well as interactive narratives.

Prerequisite: POST 124 or GAM 250

Learning Outcomes

By the end of POST 224, students will be able to:

1. Perform all basic tasks of the post-production sound process.
2. Identify and troubleshoot all elements of a post-production recording session.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the requirements necessary to collaborate in a group.
4. Utilize basic functions of a sound studio.
5. Develop a schedule and coordinate sessions for post-production audio work.

Required Text

- *Sound for Film and Television*, Third Edition, by Tomlinson Holman, ISBN-13: 978-0240813301
 - Print or electronic copies available at the DePaul bookstore
- Additional course readings, handouts, and related videos are available on D2L.

Materials

- A portable hard drive with **at least** 100GB free space - USB **3.0** (not 2.0), or Thunderbolt (preferably 7200 RPM) is recommended.

Assignments and Grading

- Project 1 – Sound and Image 15%
- Project 2 – Voice Recording/Editing 20%
- Project 3a – Short Film Dialog Edit and Premix 20%
- Project 3b – Short Film Sound Design and Mix 25%
- Reading Responses (5 points each x4) 20%

Project/File Naming Conventions

YYMMDD-FirstInitialLastName-ProjectName (Example: 220915-JKliment-Project1). Incorrect naming will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

SCA Studio Support

- DePaul has an information portal in D2L called **SCA Central** that looks like a course. If you have any SCA related questions, the information is likely available there.
- If you have any **technical issues** regarding hardware or software please email: scaavsupport@depaul.edu
- To access the **SCA Knowledgebase**, please click here: <https://depaulscaavsupport.groovehq.com/help>
- For questions pertaining to **CDM lab reservations** please email: scasoundstudio@cdm.depaul.edu

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is one of the key indicators of student success; therefore everyone is expected to attend each class meeting and to remain for the entire period. Your contribution matters. By arriving punctually each week and actively participating in class activities you are helping yourself and your colleagues. Please stay focused and refrain from distracting others and/or using electronic devices for non-class activities.

Late Work Policy

- Work can be turned in for full credit before 11:59 PM on the due date (excluding class presentations, see below).
- Score will be reduced by 10% for each day late, for the next three calendar days only.
- Late work after three calendar days will earn zero points.
- If a student presents supporting documentation for an excused absence, the assignment will be due by 11:59 PM on the day of their return. After that, the student will receive zero points.
- If a student discusses a personal issue with the instructor in advance, a new due date may be agreed upon at the instructor's discretion.
- Class presentations will be due at the scheduled time of the presentation.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	Excellent work, shows fine attention to detail
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Above average work, shows solid effort
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Satisfactory, meets expectations but needs refinement
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Below average work, does not meet all requirements
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work is unfinished and/or does not demonstrate understanding of objectives

COURSE CALENDAR

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change, with notification.

Class 1 – January 3

Course overview

Film sound process: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production

“The willing suspension of disbelief”

Elements of sound for picture

Roles in film sound

Post-production and Pro Tools workflow

Digital audio and computer systems

Efficient use of system resources with Pro Tools

Introduction to Project 1

Team assignments and brainstorming session

- **Assignment: Project 1 – Proposal Due Class 2 (next week)**
- **Reading Assignment:** Holman – preface, introduction, and chapters 1-3
 - Complete online reading response by **Saturday, January 7**

Class 2 – January 10

Project 1 – Proposal presentations and discussion

Overview of sound studios

Microphones and signal flow

Training and booking procedures

- **Assignment: Project 1 – Finished Video Due Class 3 (next week)**

Class 3 – January 17

DUE TODAY: Project 1 Finished Videos

Screenings and discussion

- **Assignment: Project 2 – Due Class 6**
- **Reading Assignment:** Holman, chapters 4-6
 - Complete online reading response by **Saturday, January 21**

Class 4 – January 24

Studio day

- **Assignment: Project 2 – Due Class 6**

Class 5 – January 31

Dialog production, post-production, and processing

ADR, narration, voice-overs

Room tone and ambience – editing and looping techniques

Clip gain and volume automation

Master fader and metering

Assignment: Project 2 – Due Class 6 (next week)

- **Reading Assignment:** Holman, chapters 10-12
 - Complete online reading response by **Saturday, February 4**

Class 6 – February 7

DUE TODAY: Project 2

Review and discussion

Introduction to short film project

Working with OMF/AAF files

EDLs and video files

Offsets and “conforming” to picture edits

Production sound and PFX

Pre-mix, stems, and building to the final mix

- **Assignment: Project 3a – Dialog Premix – Due Class 8**

Class 7 – February 14

Session management and organization
Importance of backups and file management
Time code formats and session settings
2-beeps and their importance
Dialog sync and editing techniques continued
Demonstration and discussion

- **Assignment: Project 3a – Dialog Premix – Due Class 8 (next week)**
- **Reading Assignment:** Holman, appendices I-IV
 - Complete online reading response by **Saturday, February 18**

Class 8 – February 21

DUE TODAY: Dialog Premix

“Diegetic” and “non-diegetic” sound
Achieving perspective using plug-ins
Gain structure – review
Balance of mix – metering, listening, and mixing levels

Review of digital audio and signal processing concepts:

- a) Bit depth, dynamic range, and audio compression
- b) Sample rate, frequency response, and equalization

- **Assignment: Project 3b – Sound Design and Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 9 – February 28

Trimming sound effects and spotting to picture
Maintaining focus, using sound to emphasize action
Layering – adding depth and dimension
Building ambiences, setting the mood
Pre-mixing and building toward the final mix
Using plug-ins to add perspective – review

- **Assignment: Project 3b – Sound Design and Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 10 – March 7

- **Assignment: Project 3b – Sound Design and Mix – Due Class 11**
Screening and critiques in class

Class 11 – March 14

DUE TODAY: FINISHED FILM MIXES – SCREENING IN CLASS

Presentations and discussion
Careers in film sound
Course wrap-up

DEPAUL AND CDM POLICIES

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

The health and safety of everyone at DePaul depend on the cooperation of all who come to campus. By taking care of yourself, you protect the entire community. DePaul's COVID-19 response plans are based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Chicago Department of Public Health and the university's medical advisor from AMITA Health.

Mandatory protocols must be followed by DePaul students, faculty and staff at all times on both campuses <https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/guidance/health-safety-practices/Pages/default.aspx>.

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore "what must be done" in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

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. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

Posting work on online sites, such as Hero

All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

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 (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus (773) 325-1677
- Email: csd@depaul.edu

Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gregory 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.