

**DC215 sec201 Syllabus Winter '14 Mike Mitchell**  
**mmitch23@cdm.depaul.edu**  
**Office hours (Thurs., 11:15am-12:45pm): CDM rm.332**  
**Classroom (Tues. & Thurs, 9:40-11:10am): LPC rm.331**

## **Summary of the course**

In this introductory class, students will be exposed to the aesthetics and practical applications of sound design for cinema. Students will view film and video clips demonstrating various design elements of sound, learn to critically analyze and discuss these elements and learn the basic functions of PRO TOOLS software, which students will utilize with required sound and editing projects. Sound design analysis papers will be assigned throughout the quarter as well as sound editing projects using Pro Tools. Students will take written MIDTERM and FINAL exams, which will be based on terms, concepts and assigned reading.

## **Materials/Equipment**

D.C. majors should have their own external FireWire 800 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. Non-majors taking DC 215 should have at least an 8 GB flash drive to store their audio projects. **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>1/7</b>  | Review syllabus.   |
|               | <b>1/9</b>  | Pro-Tools basics 1. In class editing exercise.<br>HOMEWORK: Paper #1 ( <b>DUE 1/16</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>1/14</b> | Sound Basics   |
|               | <b>1/16</b> | Pro-Tools basics 2. In class editing exercise.<br>HOMEWORK: Project #1 ( <b>DUE 1/30</b> ) "Images" Non-objective sound design.  |
| <b>Week 3</b> | <b>1/21</b> | Lab: In class work on "Images" assignment.   |
|               | <b>1/23</b> | Audio Post Production<br>HOMEWORK: Paper #2 ( <b>DUE 2/6</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>Week 4</b> | <b>1/28</b> | Pro Tools basics 3   |
|               | <b>1/30</b> | Microphones  |
| <b>Week 5</b> | <b>2/4</b>  | Field Recording exercise   |
|               | <b>2/6</b>  | Project #2 ( <b>DUE 2/20</b> )<br>Midterm review   |

|                |             |                                      |
|----------------|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 6</b>  | <b>2/11</b> | <b>Midterm</b>                       |
|                | <b>2/13</b> | Lab: In class work on Project #2     |
| <b>Week 7</b>  | <b>2/18</b> | Lab: In class work on Project #2     |
|                | <b>2/20</b> | Screen and discuss Project #2        |
| <b>Week 8</b>  | <b>2/25</b> | Screen and discuss a film <b>TBD</b> |
|                | <b>2/27</b> | Finish Screening Film                |
| <b>Week 9</b>  | <b>3/4</b>  | Intro to Sound Studio                |
|                | <b>3/6</b>  | Intro to Sound Studio                |
| <b>Week 10</b> | <b>3/11</b> | <b>FINAL PROJECT (In class)</b>      |
|                | <b>3/13</b> | <b>FINAL EXAM</b>                    |

**\* 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 Exam 10%, 1st Project 15%, 2nd Project 20%, 3rd Project 10%

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.

### **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.

### **Incomplete**

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two Classes before the final, and approved by the Dean of the School of Computer Science, Telecommunications and Information Systems. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.