

Sound Design 215
Syllabus

Start Date: January 3rd, 2016
End Date: March 11th, 2016
Final Project: March 14th, 2016

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Office Hours: T/Th STDC 332 1:10-2:40

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• **Course Description**

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.

Course Goals:

In **DC215**, students will:

1. Analyze film clips to demonstrate how sound functions as a storytelling device.
2. Break down the technical aspects of a film's soundtrack (frequency, dynamic range, space, time) and the elements of a mix (dialogue, music, and effects).
3. Participate in workshops to learn the basics of sound editing and mixing in a digital audio workstation.
4. Master the basics of gathering audio in the field.
5. Create original sound designs for short films and film clips.
6. Engage in critical listening.

Course Objectives:

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

1. Critically analyze a film in terms of its aesthetic and technical sound components.
2. Plan and create an original sound design for a short film.
3. Operate a microphone and field recorder to gather original sound fx, backgrounds, and voice recordings.
4. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film.
5. Navigate pro tools software's basic editing and mixing functions.
6. Understand the basic physics of sound and how that influences the post- production and production pipeline within film.
7. Understand various film theories in terms of sound design.

Course Exams: Students will have a practical MIDTERM and FINAL exam, which will be based on concepts, techniques, and skills they have learned through the class.

• **Equipment**

Students should have their own external USB 2.0/3.0/Thunderbolt drive for their project work for this and other DC classes.

Note: The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained.

- **Grading**

Participation 10%, Midterm Project 20%, Final Project 40%,
Projects 30%

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

- **Curriculum** (The curriculum may be subject to change during the course)

- **Week 1**

Class 1 – 01/03/17

Explain Syllabus and class expectations. D2L.
How does sound help tell the story?

Class 2 – 01/05/17

The Four Dimensions of Sound Track
Sound Physics! (Yes we will go into why $v = \lambda f$)

- **Week 2**

Class 3 – 01/10/17

Sound Basics

Pro Tools Basics 1 - The Pro Tools Workspace and Working With Sessions and Video

File Formats - OGG, MP3, AIFF, WAV, etc

Class 4 – 01/12/17

File Formats - OGG, MP3, AIFF, WAV

Pro Tools Basics 2 – Working with Tracks and Navigating and Playing Sessions

Pro Tools Basics 3 – Importing Audio, Working with Selections, and Exporting Audio

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. **(Due Class 6)**

- **Week 3**

Class 5 – 01/17/17

Pro Tools Basics 4 – Editing Audio/Pro Tools Basics 3

Pro Tools Basics 5 – Fades, Automation, Plugins, and the Mix Window

Class 6 – 01/19/17

Pro Tools Basics 6– Working with video, designing sound for video.

Review Project 1

Project 2: Syncing environmental sound effects to a video project. Space and Time are important concepts for this project (**Due Class 8**)

- **Week 4**

Class 7 – 01/24/17

Pro Tools Advanced 1 – Busing and Auxing/Printing Mixes

Pro Tools Advanced 2 – Sound Effects, Levels, and Syncing

Class 8 – 01/26/17

Review Project 2

Discuss Midterm

- **Week 5**

Class 9 – 1/31/17

Practical Midterm.

Class 10 – 2/02/17

Metadata and Pro Tools

Review Midterms

- **Week 6**

Class 11 – 2/07/17

**Pro Tools – Mixing Techniques, Levels, Loudness, and LUFS
SFX Creation/Techniques**

Class 12 – 02/09/17

**Compression, Printing Multiple Mix Tracks, Stems, Post-production
workflow
Stereo Authoring, 5.1 Authoring, and dealing with finalized assets**

- **Week 7**

Class 13 - 02/14/17

Production Audio

Class 14 – 02/16/17

Production Audio Practice

Project 3: Team Field Recording/SFX recording exercise. 3 SFX per person.

- **Week 8**

Class 15 – 02/21/17

Sound Studio Day

Class 16 - 02/23/17

Sound Studio Day

Project 4/Final: Create unique sound design for a video clip. **(Due 03/14/17)**

- **Week 9**

Class 17 – 02/28/17

Pro Tools: Printing Mixes for Deliverables

In Class work on Final Project

Class 18 – 03/02/17

In Class work on Final Project

Evaluations on Progress for Final Project

- **Week 10**

Class 19 - 03/07/17

In class work on Final Project

Class 20 – 03/09/17

One on one critique time on final project.

- **Week 11**

Final Exam 03/14/2017 8:30 AM – 10:45 AM

College Policies

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 [CampusConnect](#).

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.

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