

# **DC215 Introduction to Sound Design**

**Syllabus Fall 2017**

Kahra Scott-James

Tuesday/Thursday 11.50am-1.20pm

CDM Center 922

## **General Course Information**

### **Course description:**

This course is a project-based introduction to sound, sound design, and the soundtrack, covering the basics of sound recording, editing, design and mixing. Lectures, readings, screenings will be used to examine sound for moving image disciplines. Students will learn how to employ sound as a creative storytelling device.

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically analyze the aural components of a film.
2. Understand the various elements that constitutes a soundtrack
3. Plan and create an audio drama.
4. Plan and create a soundtrack for a short film.
5. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in Pro Tools.

### **Course Management Systems:**

D2L and Lynda.com

### **Tutorials and printed resources:**

These materials are available on D2L and/or via Dropbox download link.

### **Software:**

Pro Tools will be the main software we work with in this class. Labs which include Pro Tools are CDM 526, CDM 922, CDM 9th floor IMacs (get an iLok from the cage), C106C and the Editing Suites in the basement of the DePaul Center, and the MAC Lab on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the student center.

### **Drop dates:**

9/13 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.

10/24 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.

**Project Naming Conventions:** DC215lastname\_projectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

## **Instructor Information**

**Email:** kscottja@cdm.depaul.edu

## **Office Hours**

Monday 5-6pm

Tuesday 2-4pm

Thursdays 2-4pm

CDM 476 (office) Lab/Pro Tools/Tech Support (922/526)

## **Grading**

**Attendance:** 20 points

**Webcam Self-Interview #1 - *Critical Listening*:** 5 Points

**Webcam Self-Interview #2 – *Film Scene Analysis*:** 5 Points

**FINAL EXAM** – 10 points

**Project #1: *Audio Drama*** 30 points

- Audio Pre/Paperwork (10 points)
- Recording, Editing & Design (10 points)
- Final Mix (10 points)

Brief/Assessment Guide on D2L (WEEK 1 Folder)

**Work in Progress DUE WEEK 6 10/10 5pm**

**FINAL PROJECT 1 DUE: WEEK 7 10/16 9am**

**Project #2: *Short Film Soundtrack*** 30 points

- Early Look Work in Progress (5 Points) \* **Week 7 screening**
- Editing & Design (10 points)
- Final Mix (10 points)
- Pro Tools Practical (5 points)

Brief/Assessment Guide & Clip on D2L (WEEK 1 Folder)

**FINAL PROJECT 2 DUE: WEEK 11 (11/15)**

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

### **Week-By-Week Outline**

#### **WEEK1: 9/5**

Review syllabus, expectations in class. Discuss project work.

Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

**Introduction:** *The Soundtrack.*

**Webcam Self-Interview #1:** Pick a specific space in your residence (This should take place in your bedroom, living room, kitchen or bathroom. This experience should not take place in a public or common space). Sit there for 30 minutes or so and begin noting what you hear. Record a 2-minute analysis describing what you hear around you and how your perceptions of sound are altered. Please name your Quicktime file with the project name and your name. Deliver Quicktime Video to D2L. **DUE NEXT WEEK 9/11 9am**

**Webcam Self-Interview #2:** Choose a scene from any movie and record a 3-minute analysis of the use of sound - how does sound help tell the story? Please name your Quicktime file with the project name and your name. Deliver Quicktime Video to D2L **DUE WEEK 3 9/18 9am**

### **IDEAS – PROJECT 1 Audio Drama**

#### **WEEK1: 9/7**

##### **Project #1: Audio Drama** 30 points

Tell a story through sound in 3 minutes - 1min dialogue/VO and 1min music maximum. The subject is “**Memory**” and open to interpretation. Deliver a 24/48kHz .wav Stereo File to D2L. Please name your .wav file with the project name and your name. **DUE WEEK7**

*Organize into Groups of 5 (Writer, Producer, Director, Supervising Sound Editor/Audio Director, Studio Operator) and brainstorm story ideas. Develop, pre-produce, source and record necessary components then create your own individual version.*

**NEXT WEEK WE WILL RECORD DIALOGUE/VO/NARRATION (724)**

**Audio Pre-Production:** *Script, Sound & Story Development, Planning Projects*

### **AUDIO DRAMA PLANNING SESSION**

**Paperwork – script, treatment, SFX list**

***EACH PERSON TO DELIVER AUDIO DRAMA PAPERWORK TO D2L BY END OF CLASS (10 MARKS)***

***Reading: Behind the Art, Randy Thom***

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**WEEK 2, 9/12-9/14**

**724 Recording Session**

- Make sure you bring scripts and a drive to back up/transfer your groups recording

**Webcam Self-Interview #2:** Choose a scene from any movie and record a 3-minute analysis of the use of sound - how does sound help tell the story? Deliver Quicktime Video to D2L **DUE NEXT WEEK (WEEK 3) 9/18 9am**

***NEXT WEEK WE WILL RECORD FOLEY/SFX (724)***

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**WEEK 3, 9/19-9/21**

**724 Recording Session**

- Make sure you bring scripts and a drive to back up/transfer your groups recording

***Reading: Designing for Sound, Randy Thom***

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**WEEK 4, 9/26**

**Pro Tools Introduction:**

Session Set-up, SFX Libraries, Importing Audio, Editing, Fades

**Sound Basics:** *Pitch/Frequency, Loudness/Amplitude, Timbre & Envelope*

**WEEK 4: 9/28**

**Field Sound Recording**

**PROJECT 1 WORK SESSION (EDITING)**

***Reading: Open Letter, Rain is Sizzling Bacon***

**Lynda.com:** Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin (2. Learning the Interface 3. Importing)

**Lynda.com:** *Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin* (4. Recording Audio, 5. Using the Edit Tools, 6. Editing Audio)

**Remember to Book location gear for next week (Field Sound)**

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**WEEK 5: 10/3**

**Field Sound Recording Tutorial: Microphones & Recorders:**

Each team needs to bring the following gear: H4, Boom pole, Headphones, shockmount, an xlr cable and one of these mics MKH50/416/ME66/Me67/Rode NTG 2 or 3. **Please check/test all of the equipment. H4 checklist & manual on D2L**

**Reading:** *5 Tricks, Backgrounds, Intro to gathering SFX, Recording Foley*

**WEEK 5: 10/5**

**Pro Tools cont.**

Editing/Layering Audio, EQ, Pitching, Clip Gain & Volume Automation, Panning

**Reading:** *8 Practical Pro Tools Shortcuts*

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**WEEK 6: 10/10**

**Sound Basics:** Monitoring and Metering

**Pro Tools Introduction:** VCA's, AUX SENDS & Plugins.

**Exporting Audio** – Prepare & Deliver Project 1 WIP's to D2L by 5pm

**WEEK 6: 10/12**

**PROJECT 1 WIP** - Presentation/Feedback in Class.

**FINAL DUE NEXT WEEK 10/16 9am**

**Reading:** *Behind the Art with Pelayo Gutierrez*

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**WEEK 7: 10/17**

**PROJECT 1 FINALS Presentation in Class.**

**WEEK 7: 10/19**

**PROJECT 2 SET UP**

**Importing Video, Working with Pictures**

**Project #2: Short Film Soundtrack:** Create a soundtrack for the supplied 1 min clip “Burn-e gets Distracted”. Please state your name and the project name at the top of the video. Deliver consolidated Pro Tools Session and Quicktime to D2L. **DUE WEEK 11**

*Reading: Behind the Art Tim Prebble*

**WEEK 8: 10/24**

**PROJECT 2 WORK SESSION, EXPORT Work in Progress to D2L 5pm**

**WEEK 8: 10/26**

**PROJECT 2 WIP (WORK IN PROGRESS) IN CLASS REVIEW.**

*Reading: Behind the Art Nicolas Becker*

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**WEEK 9: 10/31**

**Pro Tools Introduction:**

Compression/Limiting

Mixing & Exporting

**WEEK 9: 11/2**

**PROJECT 2 WORK SESSION**

*Reading: The Sonic Playground/Hollywood Cinema and its Listeners*

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**WEEK 10: 11/7**

**FINAL EXAM**

**PROJECT 2 WORK SESSION**

**WEEK 10: 11/9**

**PROJECT 2 WORK SESSION**

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**WEEK 11: 11/14**

**PROJECT 2 FINAL MIX/DELIVERY D2L 5pm**

**WEEK 11: 11/16**

**FINAL SCREENING PROJECT 2/WRAP UP.**

## **Course Policies**

### **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 undistruptive 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 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](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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