

# **DC315/415 Post Production Sound Design**

**Fall Syllabus 2018**  
Kahra Scott-James  
Monday 1.30-4.45pm  
CDM 526

## **General Course Information**

### **Course description:**

This project-based course expands on topics covered in DC215. The emphasis is on sound editing, design and mixing techniques for moving image. Students will broaden their understanding and skills in sound design and audio post production through the creation of a short film soundtrack.

### **PREREQUISITE(S): DC 215 (Introduction to Sound Design)**

### **Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically analyze the aural components of a short film
2. Plan and coordinate audio recording sessions
3. Manage basic audio post-production processes
4. Utilize functions of a DAW
5. Edit, design and mix a short film soundtrack

### **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:**

9/18 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.

10/23 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 12-1pm (CDM 476)

Wednesdays 12.30-5.30pm (CDM 476)

## **Required Texts:**

NA

## **Grading**

- **Attendance:** 20 points
- **Quiz:** 10 points
- **Project #1: *Short Film – Critical Analysis*** 15 points
- **Project #2: *Short Film Soundtrack*:** 40 points
- ***Critical Analysis (500 word min):*** 15 Points
  
- ***Graduate Students: Paper 20 points: 2000-25000 word paper on any sound design topic DUE Week 8. 11/2 5pm***

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

### Week 1

**Topics Covered:** Review Syllabus. Select Film, Discuss Project Work.

#### **Group Assignment: Project #1 DUE 9/16 5pm**

##### **Short Film Soundtrack - Critical Analysis, Plan for Recording & Re-design**

Choose a 3-5 min short film, brainstorm and prepare a 10-15 minute MAX in-class presentation (5 min short or scene screening, and 5-10 min power-point/oral presentation). Debate the existing soundtrack and how your group intends to approach re-designing the films soundtrack. **Brief on D2L**

##### **Deliverables:**

Submit to D2L as a Quick time (complete film), or link, and Power Point Presentation.

#### **Individual Assignment: Project #2**

Create a soundtrack for your selected short film. This will include dialogue, sound effects (foley, spots, atmos etc) and music if appropriate to the film. You can use the SFX library and any other online resources. Week 3 and 4 are dedicated class recording sessions for dialogue and/or foley. **Brief on D2L**

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### Week 2

#### **Project #1: In-class presentations**

*Discuss dialogue, effects, music, silence – how does each soundtrack element contribute to the narrative, aesthetic and emotion of the film? Discuss your plan for re-design – what do you need to record or source?*

**Reading:** *The Sound Designer, Theory and Practice of Film Sound*

**Reading:** *The Art of Footsteps, Props and Cloth Movement, Practical Art of Motion Picture Sound*

#### **Assignment Work:**

Lock Short Film SFX Design/Plan

**Recording Next Week**

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### Week 3

#### **Group Recording Session – LOOP CAMPUS CDM724**

- Bring USB Drives

**Reading:** *Sound Effects, Producing Great Sound for Film & Video*

**Reading:** *Silence the Absence of Sound, Soundscape*

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### Week 4

#### **Group Recording Session – LOOP CAMPUS CDM724**

- **Bring USB Drives**

**Reading:** *Editing: Sound for Film & TV, Chapter 11*

## **BOOK STUDIO TRAINING FOR ADDITIONAL RECORDING SESSIONS**

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### **Week 5**

**Topics Covered:** OMF/AIFF, Session Management

**Lynda.com:** Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin (2. Learning the Interface 3. Importing 4. Recording Audio, 5. Using the Edit Tools, 6. Editing Audio)

**Reading:** *Cruising with David Lynch Down the Lost Highway, Sound for Picture. The Art of Sound Design*

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### **Week 6**

**Quiz**

**Project Work Session**

**Topics Covered:** Sound editing, layering, processing, pre-mixing

**Reading:** *Sonic Nostalgia, Drawn to Sound, Animation Film Music & Sonicity*

**WIP's (Quicktimes) DUE 10/19 5pm**

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### **Week 7**

#### **WORK IN PROGRESS – SCREENING**

**Topics Covered:** Music Selection/Editing.

**Reading:** *Blade Runners, A Crisis in Voicing Authority, identity and Spectacle, Sound Design & Science Fiction*

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### **Week 8**

**Topics Covered:** Mixing Part 1.

**Continue Work on Final Projects**

**Reading:** *Mixing Filters and Effects, Audio Production and Post Production*

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### **Week 9**

**Topics Covered:** Mixing Part 2.

## **Continue Working on Final Projects**

**Reading:** *The Future of Sound Design, The Expressive Power of Music, Voice and Sound Effects in Cinema*

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### **Week 10**

#### **Final Mix Session**

**FINAL PROJECTS & CRITICAL REFLECTION DUE 11/16 5pm**

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### **Week 11**

**FINAL PROJECTS SCREENED IN CLASS**

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## **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).

Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.

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