

DC215 sec401: Sound Design I; Syllabus Winter '19 Mike Mitchell

mmitch23@cdm.depaul.edu

Office hours (LPC rm.332): Mon., 11:15-12:45pm

Classroom (LPC rm.331): Mon. & Wed., 9:40-11:10am

Summary of the course

This course is an introduction to sound editing and sound design. The course examines the place of sound in cinema, both artistic and technological. The course will cover the basics of sound, microphones, and analogue-to-digital conversion. Lectures, readings, and film clips will be used to illustrate the language of film sound, as practiced by film directors, sound designers, and editors. Students will learn to edit sound assignments with Pro Tools.

Materials/Equipment

Students need an external hard drive with a USB 3.0 interface. A minimum of 50 GB is recommended. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained. **DO NOT WORK OFF OF YOUR EXTERNAL DRIVES!**

Textbooks and printed resources

Recommended books:

The Sound Effects Bible by Ric Viers.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1	1/7	Review syllabus.
	1/9	Pro-Tools basics 1. In class editing exercise. HOMEWORK: Paper #1 (DUE 1/16) LISTENING TO LIFE. Listen to the environment around you. 1 1/2 to 2 pages. Informal reflection paper... what do you hear?
Week 2	1/14	Sound Basics
	1/16	Pro-Tools basics 2. In class editing exercise. HOMEWORK: Project #1 (DUE 1/30) "Images" Non-objective sound design.
Week 3	1/21	Lab: In class work on "Images" assignment.
	1/23	Audio Post Production HOMEWORK: Paper #2 (DUE 2/6) 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?
Week 4	1/28	Pro Tools basics 3
	1/30	Microphones Screen and discuss Project #1
Week 5	2/4	Field Recording exercise
	2/6	Project #2 (DUE 2/20) Midterm review
Week 6	2/11	Midterm (based on lectures, discussions, and film clips shown in class)
	2/13	Lab: In class work on Project #2

Week 7	2/18	Watch Film (TBD) Lab: In class work on Project #2
	2/20	Screen and discuss Project #2
Week 8	2/25	Signal Flow HOMEWORK: Final Project (DUE 3/11)
	2/27	Lab: In class work on Final Project
Week 9	3/4	Intro to Sound Studio
	3/6	Intro to Sound Studio
Week 10	3/11	Screen and discuss the Final Project Pro Tools Proficiency Quiz
	3/13	Quiz pt.2 - Written

*** 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 D2L Submissions 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 Quiz 10%, Projects 45%

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.

Attendance

It is crucial that you do your best to make it on time for each class. After two absences a doctor's note is required. If a doctor's note is not provided for the third (and any subsequent) absence, a half letter grade will be deducted per class missed.

Attendance includes showing up to class on time. Phone use, during class, is prohibited. This includes texting.

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.