POST 124: Sound Design I

Course Description

This course is an introduction to the principles of digital audio and the methods employed to create, edit, and deliver sound for film. The course examines the place of sound in film, both artistic and technological. The course will cover the basics of sound in the physical and digital realm, sound effects editing, and sound effects delivery. Lectures, discussions, and videos will be used to examine the art and the process of adding sound to film. Students will learn to edit sound assignments with Pro Tools and current technologies.

Prerequisites: None

Learning Outcomes

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

- Critically analyze a film in terms of aesthetic and technical sound component

- Plan and create original sound design for a short film

- Record original sound effects, Backgrounds, and voice recordings

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film

- Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.

- Understand the basics physics of sound

Course Information

Course Management Systems/Tools
Course information, tutorial videos, and printed materials are
all available on D2L:
https://d2l.depaul.edu

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 3rd floor of the student center.

Materials/Equipment
DePaul University has an enterprise Box Account. All projects can be
stored on Box. More information and login details can be accessed at:
https://depaul.account.box.com/login

A hard drive (USB 3, Thunderbolt, SSD or platter drive at least at 7200rpm)
is also useful. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left
on lab computers will be safely maintained.
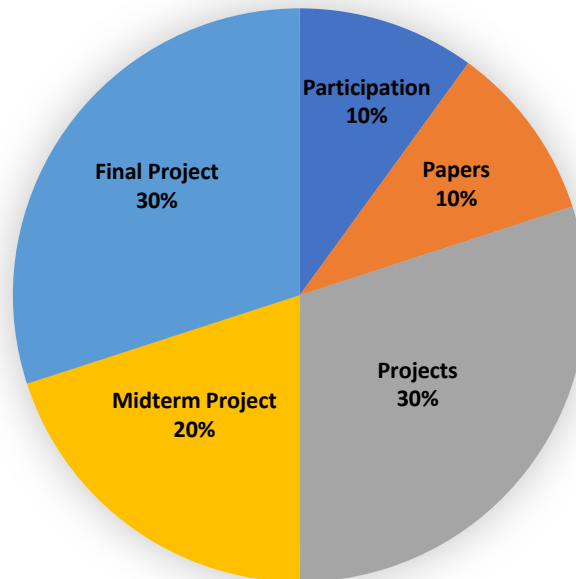
Project/Assignment Naming Conventions:

POST 124 LastnameFirstinitial Project name:
E.G **POST 124 KatzerD Project 1**

Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project or
assignment grade.

Course Information (Cont.)

Grading

Participation 10%
Papers 10%
Final Project 30%
Projects 30%
Midterm Project 20%

Final Project Breakdown
Early Look 1: 5%
Early Look 2: 5%
Final Submitted Project 20%

Projects Breakdown
Project 1: 10%
Project 2: 15%
Project 3: 5%

Grade Points:

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+
100-93	92-90	89-88	87-83	82-80	79-78
C	**C-**	**D+**	**D**	**D-**	**F**
77-73	72-70	69-68	67-63	62-60	59-0

Late work is not accepted. In case of illness, please let me know.

Corrupted files and submissions to an incorrect dropbox will result in a zero.

Course Schedule

Week 1

Class 1
1/07

The Four Dimensions of the Soundtrack
Explain the Syllabus and Class Expectations
How does sound help tell the story?

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading (Available on D2L): Behind the Art: Randy Thorn, Designing for Sound, Rain is sizzling bacon	**1/09**

Class 2
1/09

Sound Basics
File Formats
Pro Tools Introduction

Homework	**Due Date**
Paper 1: Pick a specific location in your residence and listen for 30 minutes. Note what you hear during that time and your reaction to that sound and how your perceptions of sound have changed.	**1/14**

Week 2

Class 3
1/14

Sound Physics! (Why does $v = \lambda f$?)
File Formats
Pro Tools Basics 1

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading (Available on D2L): Let's Talk About Waveforms!	**1/16**

Class 4
1/16

Pro Tools Basics 2
Faders and Panning
Discuss Project 1

Homework	**Due Date**
<u>**Project 1**</u>: 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.	**1/21**

Project requirements:
48khz/24bit Stereo WAV File

Week 3

Class 5
1/21

Project 1 Critiques
Pro Tools Basics 3

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading (Available on D2L): Managing Your Pro Tools Projects	**1/23**

Class 6
1/23

Sound Design Step by Step
Pro Tools Basics 4
Discuss Project 2

Homework	**Due Date**
Project 2: Syncing environmental sound effects to a video project. Space and Time are important concepts for this project	**1/28**

Project Requirements:
Audio: 48k/24bit Stereo Video: QuickTime Mov File

Week 4

Class 7
1/28

Project 2 Critiques
Pro Tools Advanced 1

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading (Available on D2L): 8 steps to Better EQ The Beginner's Guide to Compression Using Playlist	**1/23**

Class 8
1/30

Introduce Midterm
Lab Work on Midterm project

Homework	**Due Date**
Midterm - Practical exam Monday, Project file due at the end of class	**2/04**

Week 5

Class 9
2/04

Midterm Exam

Homework

None

Class 10
2/06

Microphones Part 1 Lecture/Demo
Pro Tools Advanced 2

Homework	Due Date
Paper 2: Choose a 20 to 30-minute sequence from any movie and write a 500-word analysis of the sound design of that clip. Utilize the terminology we've learned about in class to discuss the sound design.	**2/11**

Week 6

Class 11
2/11

Microphones Part 2
Recording Workshop

Introduce Team Recording Exercises:
Each team needs to bring the following gear:
Sound Devices recorder, Boom pole,
Headphones, MKH50/416/ME66/Me67/Rode
NTG 2 or 3, shock mount and an xlr cable

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading: Deciphering the film Slate An introduction to gathering SFX	**2/13**

Class 12
2/13

Recording Workshop
Introduction of Final Project

Homework	**Due Date**
Project 3: Team Field Recording/SFX recording exercise Details on D2L.	**2/25**

Week 7

Class 13
2/18

Introduction to the Sound Studio
CDM Room 724

Homework	**Due Date**
Reading: De-essing How to use a Parametric Equalizer	**2/13**

Class 14
2/20

Introduction to the Sound Studio
CDM Room 724

Homework	**Due Date**
Project 3: Team Field Recording/SFX recording exercise Details on D2L.	**2/25**

Week 8

Class 15 2/25	**Pro Tools Advanced 3** **In-Class Exercise/work on Final**	
	Homework	**Due Date**
	Reading: Designing Sound Backgrounds	**2/27**
Class 16 2/27	**Signal Flow, DSP, and Mixing** **In-Class work on Final**	
	Homework	**Due Date**
	<u>**Final Project:**</u> Early Look 1 Due	**3/03**

Week 9

Class 17
3/03

Lab work on Final Project
Early Look 1 Critiques

Homework

None

Class 18
3/05

Pro Tools Advanced 4
In-Class Exercise

Homework   **Due Date**

<u>Final Project:</u> Early Look 2 Due   **3/12**

Week 10

Class 17
3/10

Lab: In Class work on Final

Homework

None

Class 18
3/12

Early Look Critiques 2
Lab: In class work on Final

Homework	Due Date
Final Project Exam: 2:30 PM – 4:45 PM	**3/17**

Course Policies

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. Please see https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online- teaching-evaluations.aspx for additional information.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx.

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:http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/PoliciesandProcedures.aspx

Incomplete Grades

An incomplete grade is a special, temporary grade that may be assigned by an instructor when unforeseeable circumstances prevent a student from completing course requirements by the end of the term and when otherwise the student had a record of satisfactory progress in the course. All incomplete requests must be approved by the instructor of the course and a CDM Associate Dean. Only exceptions cases will receive such approval. Information about the Incomplete Grades policy can be found at http://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Current%20Students/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx

Preferred Name & Gender Pronouns

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the quarter so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Please also note that students may choose to identify within the University community with a preferred first name that differs from their legal name and may also update their gender. The preferred first name will appear in University related systems and documents except where the use of the legal name is necessitated or required by University business or legal need. For more information and instructions on how to do so, please see the Student Preferred Name and Gender Policy at http://policies.depaul.edu/policy/policy.aspx?pid=332

Students with Disabilities

Students seeking disability-related accommodations are required to register with DePaul's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) enabling them to access accommodations and support services to assist with their success. There are two office locations:

- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677

  Students who register with the Center for Students with Disabilities are also invited to contact Dr. Gergory Moorhead, Director of the Center, privately to discuss how he may assist in facilitating the accommodations to be used in a course. This is best done early in the term. The conversation will remain confidential to the extent possible.

  Please see https://offices.depaul.edu/student-affairs/about/departments/Pages/csd.aspx for Services and Contact Information.