

# **POST 124-503: SOUND DESIGN 1**

Thursdays: 10:00am - 1:15pm

## **PROFESSOR**

Giancarlo Pasquesi

## **EMAIL**

Gpasque1@depaul.edu

## **OFFICE HOURS**

By appointment only via **Bluestar**. 3pm – 5pm Tuesdays

## **ZOOM:**

<https://depaul.zoom.us/j/3841558477>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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 and current technologies. This is a lecture/lab course.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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. Layer sounds for detail and impact
4. Use contrast in Sound Design to enhance tension or drama
5. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film.
6. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.
7. Understand the basic physics of sound.
8. Consider the emotional context of a moment and design an appropriate sonic atmosphere.

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## **COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS/TOOLS**

D2L and Lynda.com (Pro Tools 12 Essential Training with Frank Cook). Printed materials are available on D2L.

All assignments and grades will be listed on our course **D2L** page.

## **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

5pts Attendance / Participation / Behavior

10pts Response/ Paper #1: Listening to your room

20pts SFX Asset Pack

10pts Critical Analysis of Sound in Film (written)

15pts Project 1: Sound Re-Design

20pts Project 2: Environmental (Collaborative)

20pts Project 3: Short Film Soundtrack (Collaborative)

100pts Final Grade

## **GRADING SCALE**

*Application and Demonstration of Comprehension in Course Topics and Techniques*

**A** 100-93

**A-** 92-90

**B+** 89-87

**B** 86-83

**B-** 82-80

**C+** 79-77

**C** 76-73 Satisfactory

**C-** 72-70

**D+** 69-67

**D** 66-63

**D-** 62-60

**F** 61-0

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## EVALUATION CRITERIA

ASSIGNMENTS / PROJECTS:

Conceptual Thinking

Visual Composition

Use Of Sound And Music

Deadlines And Checkpoints

Effort / Refinement

Following Instructions

Technical Craft And Polish

Punctuality

READINGS, LECTURES, RESPONSES:

Critical Analysis

Organization Of Ideas

Sentence Structure

Spelling/Grammar

Punctuality

## PROJECT NAMING CONVENTIONS

POST124\_LastnameFirstname\_ProjectName.ext

Example: **POST124\_PasquesiCarlo\_Project2.mov**

Failure to follow this format will result in an automatic 1 point deduction.

## 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.

## 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.

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## MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

Never trust that your work is safe on a lab computer.

A **hard drive** (USB 3, Thunderbolt, SSD or spinner at least at 7200rpm) is also strongly suggested. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained.

## PROJECT / FILE SUBMISSIONS ON D2L

Use Apple Pro Res or Mp4 Compression for Video Files

Project submissions with files that are larger than 450MB will automatically lose up to 2pts. All projects will be submitted for in-progress critiques.

Final versions of projects need to be turned in as **.mov** or **.mp4** (Movies) and **Adobe PDF** (Frames, Static Art) to the appropriate **Submissions** folder on D2L. Submission folders have due dates and lock times.

Work not submitted on time will not be allowed to be uploaded or submitted for grading.

## WEEK 1

### AGENDA

Review syllabus, projects, expectations

Introduction: What is Sound Design?

How does sound help tell the story?

Thinking Modular

Listening/Writing Exercises

## ASSIGNMENTS

Paper 1: Listening to your Room Week 1

## Reference Viewing

DUNE SOUND DESIGN: [https://youtu.be/\\_L2MzJKWAuQ?t=270](https://youtu.be/_L2MzJKWAuQ?t=270)

## WEEK2

### AGENDA

Relationship between visuals and sound

Style Guides and Creative Direction

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

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## ASSIGNMENTS

**Project 1: Sound Re-Design** (Preproduction/Documentation) Preliminary/Conceptual (PDF)

## READINGS

Designing for Sound, Randy Thom Rain is Sizzling Bacon

## WEEK 3

### AGENDA

Session Organization best practices

Atmosphere

Foley

SFX

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

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

## ASSIGNMENTS

**Project 1: Sound Re-Design** (Production) (Editing, Design, and basic Mixing)

## READINGS

8 Practical Pro Tools Shortcuts

Recording Foley

## WEEK 4

### AGENDA

Project 1 Critiques

Examples of Effective Sound Design

Layering/IMPACT

Pro Tools Basics 4: Editing/Layering Audio, Clip Gain & Volume Automation

## ASSIGNMENTS

**ASSET PACK:** Deliver 10 variations of one Spot Sound Effect

## READINGS

The Sound of Star Wars

9 Sound Design Tricks To Hack Your Listener's Ears

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## WEEK 5

### AGENDA

Contrast

Silence

Project 1 Critiques

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Pro Tools: Designing for Video Editing/Layering Clip Gain & Volume Automation

Project 2: work session

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Project #2:** Designing Environmental Sound (Collaborative) pre-production (Timeline, SFX Cue Sheet, Emotional Target, Creative References/Examples)

## WEEK 6

### AGENDA

Applying Effects processing (Compression, EQ, Time Based FX)

Project 2: Production

### MIDTERM: Project 2 post production and finishing

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Project #2:** Designing Environmental Sound

## WEEK 7

### AGENDA

Project 2 Critiques

Sound Physics

Sound Fundamentals: Pitch/Frequency, Loudness/ Amplitude, Timbre & Envelope

Project 3 Introduction (pre-production)

### ASSIGNMENTS

**Project #2:** Designing Environmental Sound

**Project 3: Short Film Soundtrack Collaboration (intro/ pre-production)**

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## **WEEK 8**

### **AGENDA**

Sonic Signatures and Motifs

Work on Project 3 Production

Panning (Left to Right and Front to Back)

### **ASSIGNMENTS DUE:**

**Project 3:** Short Film Soundtrack

## **WEEK 9**

Template refinement

FX Throws

Audiosuite

### **ASSIGNMENTS DUE:**

**Project 3** Production

## **WEEK 10**

### **AGENDA**

Mixing your Final Project Work in Class

### **ASSIGNMENTS DUE:**

**Project 3:** Rough Cut

## **WEEK 11** (Final Exam class period)

### **AGENDA**

**Project 3:** Final Presentations

### **DUE:**

**Project 3:** Final Cut / Delivery

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## COURSE POLICIES

**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 participation drops one-third after any absence. **Three absences for any reason, whether excused or not, can constitute failure for the course.**

**CLASS DISCUSSION:** Student participation in class discussions will be measured in two ways. First, students are highly encouraged to ask questions and offer comments relevant to the day's topic. Participation allows the instructor to "hear" the student's voice when grading papers. Secondly, students will be called upon by the instructor to offer comments related to the reading assignments. Students must keep up with the reading to participate in class discussion.

**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.

## 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 News and Announcements in D2L and sent via email.

## ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are a way for students to provide valuable feedback regarding their



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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. <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/Pages/online-teaching-evaluations.aspx>

## **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: <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/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 <https://www.cdm.depaul.edu/Student-Resources/Pages/Grading-Policies.aspx>

## **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:

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- Loop Campus – Lewis Center #1420 – (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus – Student Center #370 – (773) 325-1677
- Email - [csd@depaul.edu](mailto:csd@depaul.edu)

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.

## **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>