

Loop Campus  
243 S. Wabash  
Room: CDM 526

POST 360-601 : Sound & Music Synthesis For Film

M/W 3:10-4:40pm - Room: CDM 526

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Office Hours: Fridays 4:00pm-4:45pm (zoom)

Drop dates: <https://academics.depaul.edu/calendar/Pages/default.aspx>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the integration of perception, theory, and practice of sound synthesis utilizing various digital synthesizers native to Ableton Live. Students will learn how to synthesize a plethora of sonic assets, ranging from utilitarian supporting effect layers to “feature sounds” designed to stand out and capture one’s attention.

These sounds will be practically applied in projects throughout the course. Projects will incorporate elements of music, visual media, sound design, and post-audio production methods and philosophies.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES / LEARNING GOALS**

By the end of POST 360, students will be able to:

- Feel comfortable working with synthesizers to design a wide range of custom sounds
- Enjoy a working knowledge of the fundamental principles common to all synthesizers
- Understand the application of post processing effects to further shape synthesized sounds
- Navigate Ableton Live and create custom preset libraries and processing chains
- Listen critically in order to analyze sounds and decipher their component parts.
- Apply synthesized sounds in productions to compliment existing audio material for maximum impact
- Implement layering to build sounds otherwise unattainable single instances of synths or audio files

## MATERIALS

This class will involve a large amount of lab time each week for exercises and projects that require Ableton Live and Max.

*You can download the 30 day free trial version of Ableton Live if you wish to work on your own computer from [ableton.com](https://www.ableton.com).*

## REQUIRED:

A portable external hard drive 1TB or larger or Cloud Storage 1TB or larger.

## EVALUATION OF PROJECTS:

**Execution:** Projects will be graded based on their adherence to their respective creative briefs or written instructions.

**CRAFT / DETAIL:** Ability to follow project parameters and instructions. Attention to detail. Desire to have a clean edge, uniformity, clarity, and detail.

**PROCESS / EFFORT / PROFESSIONALISM:** Your ability to show up to class on time, meet deadlines, participate meaningfully in class, attempt things that seem beyond your reach, etc.

## COURSE POLICIES:

***All assignments, readings, grades, and submissions through our D2L course page***

### Late Work:

Projects and assignments submitted past their posted deadlines will not be accepted. If extenuating circumstances arise, please provide me with a written request for an extension before the previously stated deadline.

### Attendance:

Attendance is required. If you must miss a class period, let me know ahead of time.

### Communication:

Please feel free to email me. I will be checking messages in the evenings and will attempt to respond in a timely manner.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

**Projects 1-7: 10pts ea.**

**Project 8 : 20pts**

**Written Assignments (x2) : 5pts ea.**

Weekly Topics and Projects (subject to change)

WK1 - Synth Fundamentals & Ableton Production Template

WK2 - Drums and Percussive Synthesis

WK3- Synth FX sounds and Emotion and Atmosphere

WK4- Low Frequency Workshop

WK5- Post-Processing Effects and Ableton's Device Rack

WK6- Custom Audio Asset Packs

WK7- Custom Synth Preset Packs

WK8- Final Project Production

WK9- Final Project Production wrap and Post Production

WK10- Final Project Review

### **All undergraduate students**

Students in all undergraduate classes, with the exception of those in CEO cohort programs, may opt to change the grading basis for any or all of their courses to Pass/D/Fail. A grade of Pass (P) will indicate that the student's work met expectations for a grade of at least C-. Work that would merit a grade of D+ or D in the traditional grading basis would still earn a D+ or D. Work that does not merit a passing grade will earn a Fail (F). The Pass/D/Fail grading option may apply to any graduation requirement, including courses in the major, minor, Liberal Studies Program or open electives.

<https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus/faqs/Pages/classes-academics-students.aspx>

### **Graduate students**

#### *School of Cinematic Arts & School of Design*

Students in graduate classes in these two schools may opt to change the grading basis for any or all of their courses to Pass/D/Fail. A grade of Pass (P) will indicate that the student's work met expectations for a grade of at least C-. Work that would merit a grade of D+ or D in the traditional grading basis would still earn a D+ or D. Work that does not merit a passing grade will earn a Fail (F). The Pass/D/Fail grading option may apply to any graduation requirement.

#### *School of Computing*

Students in graduate classes in the school will use the A/B/C/D/F grading basis.

### **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>

### **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 (312) 362-8002
- Lincoln Park Campus (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. Gregory 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.