

DC 417 W14 Syllabus- Advanced Sound Mixing for Cinema

WEEK 1: 1.07 Critical Listening: The Mix

Review syllabus and COLWeb. Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

The Elements of a Mix

Videos: Michael Semanick, clips.

Homework due 1.14:

Izhaki: Pages 3-98

WEEK 2: 1.14 Mixing and Pro Tools

Mixing vision, mixing analysis, reference tracks, the production chain, the mixing plan and objectives. Template setup, signal flow, automation, send automation, track challenges, mixing goals, assigning channels.

Homework due 1.21:

Izhaki: Pages 99-201

Video Self-Interview #1 (10points): View a movie of your choice in a commercial theater with surround sound and record a 7-minute cellphone/webcam self interview on the mix.

WEEK 3: 1.21 DSP Part 1

Levels, Equalization and Compression/Limiting.

Homework due 1.28:

Izhaki: Pages 202-330

Book Report #1 (5 points): List 50 items from the reading (Izhaki pages 3-330) that will be useful in mixing.

Project #1 due 2.11(10 points): Complete a stereo mix for a short movie. Deliver a Quicktime.

WEEK 4: 1.28 DSP Part 2

Reverb/Delay, Izotope Rx.

Homework due 2.04:

Izhaki: Pages 331-446.

Lecture/presentation due 3.4 (15 points). Given an assigned topic, prepare a 15-minute lecture/presentation. You must use Pro Tools in the demonstration.

WEEK 5: 2.4 A History of Surround Sound

Fantasia to Apocalypse Now to Dolby Atmos.

Homework due 2.11:

Izhaki: Pages 447-477.

Book Report #2 (5 points): List 50 items from the reading (Izhaki pages 331-477) that will be useful in mixing.

Video Self-Interview #2 (10 points): View a movie of your choice in a commercial theater utilizing Dolby Atmos and record a 7-minute cellphone/webcam self interview on the mix.

WEEK 6: 2.11 Surround Sound Template setup

Setup, monitoring.

Project #1 Screening and critique.

Homework due 2.25:

Project #2 (15 points): Complete a 3-minute sound design in surround. Deliver complete Pro Tools session.

WEEK 7: 2.18 Surround Sound Techniques Part 1

Dynamic panning, sound field, center speaker functions, lfe functions, headroom.
Using the Eucons in CDM 600a.

Homework due 3.18:

Project #3 (30 points). Complete a surround mix for assigned short film.

WEEK 8: 2.25 Surround Sound Techniques Part 2

Software training: Neyrinck for Dolby Digital Surround, Dolby Media Meter and Encore for Bluray Burning

Project #2 listening and critique.

Homework due 3.18:

Project #3

WEEK 9: 3.4 Grad student presentations

Homework due 3.18:

Project #3

WEEK 10: 3.11 Final Project First Looks

In class viewing and critique of the first minute of your project.

Homework due 3.18:

Project #3

FINAL Project Screenings: 3.18 at 5:45 in CDM 526

Office: CDM 600a

Office hours: Tue 12:00-1:30 in CDM 600a, 4:45-5:45 and 9-9:30 in CDM 526 or by appt or by Skype.

Email: rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu

Grading

Book reports: 10 points, Self Interviews: 20 points, Lecture/Presentation: 15 points, Projects: 55 points.

A 93-100 Excellent work A- 90-92

B+ 87-89 B 83-86 Above satisfactory work B- 80-82

C+ 77-79 C 73-76 Satisfactory/good work C- 70-72

D+ 67-69 D 63-66 Unsatisfactory work D- 60-62

F 59-61 Substantially unsatisfactory work.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of DC417, students will be able to:

1. Mix the audio for a short film in stereo or surround.
2. Complete a feature film mix session template.
3. Utilize advanced routing techniques in a digital audio workstation.
4. Identify and resolve deficiencies in a mix through various outputs.
5. Encode audio for multiple delivery platforms of the final mix.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Each class will include lecture, screening, discussion and software training. Missing a class or being late will be detrimental to the learning process.

School policies:

Online Instructor Evaluation

Course and instructor evaluations are critical for maintaining and improving course quality. To make evaluations as meaningful as possible, we need 100% student participation. Therefore, participation in the School's web-based academic administration initiative during the eighth and ninth Class of this course is a requirement of this course. Failure to participate in this process will result in a grade of incomplete for the course. This incomplete will be automatically removed within seven Class after the end of the course and replaced by the grade you would have received if you had fulfilled this requirement.

Email

Email is the primary means of communication between faculty and students enrolled in this course outside of class time. Students should be sure their email listed under "demographic information" at <http://campusconnect.depaul.edu> is correct.

Academic Integrity Policy

This course will be subject to the faculty council rules on the academic integrity policy.

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.

Incomplete

An incomplete grade is given only for an exceptional reason such as a death in the family, a serious illness, etc. Any such reason must be documented. Any incomplete request must be made at least two Classes before the final, and approved by the Dean of the School of Computing and Digital Media. Any consequences resulting from a poor grade for the course will not be considered as valid reasons for such a request.