DC412 Scoring for Film and Video

Syllabus Autumn 14

Rob Steel

Tuesday 4:45-9

CDM 922

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<u>**General Course Information**</u>

Course description
This course serves as an introduction to scoring for film and video. The three tracks of study include training on Logic to score video/film, exploring the basic techniques of film scoring and learning how to listen to music within the context of cinema. Students will listen to music in and out of context of film to develop a palette that will serve their work in scoring. Students will also be analyzing film soundtracks that will allow them to understand different techniques and aesthetics in scoring. Students will score several short video clips.

This is a lecture/lab course.

Course Management Systems
D2L and Gobbler

Tutorials and printed resources
These materials are available on D2L via Dropbox download link.

Software
Logic X will be the main software we work with in this class. Labs which include Logic X 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. If you want to score using another DAW, please feel free.

Drop dates
9.23.14 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.
10.28.14 is the last day to *withdraw* from this class.

Materials/Equipment
Students should have their own external Thunderbolt/USB3 drive for their project work for this and other DC classes. The University cannot guarantee that media or projects left on lab computers will be safely maintained.

Text
Complete Guide to Film Scoring by Richard Davis
Publisher: Berklee Press; 2nd edition (May 1, 2010)
ISBN-10: 0876391099
ISBN-13: 978-0876391099

Project Naming Conventions

Not following this naming convention for an assignment will result in a one-point reduction in the grade of assignment.

DC412_lastname_projectname.

Here are naming convention examples for all projects:

DC412_smith_bookreport1, DC412_smith_bookreport2, DC412_smith_project1, DC412_smith_project2, DC412_smith_project3, DC412_smith_project4, DC412_smith_project5, DC412_smith_project6

<u>Instructor Information</u>

Email
<u>rsteel@cdm.depaul.edu</u>

Office Hours
Mondays 9:30am-11:30pm. Online via Skype. Skype name is robertmsteel
Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 in CDM 600a

Learning Outcomes

By the end of DC412, students will be able to:

1. Analyze, critique and interpret the uses of music in Cinema.
2. Use a digital audio workstation to compose music utilizing both audio files and virtual instruments.
3. Demonstrate an understanding and utilize the basic and advanced concepts of MIDI.
4. Compose music for short films.
5. Communicate the needs of film in terms of the scoring workflow.

Grading
Video Analysis 1: 2 points, Video Analysis 2: 2 points Project 1: 10 points, Project 2: 15 Points, Project 3: 15 points, Project 4: 15 points, Project 5: 15 points, Project 6 Early Look: 6 Points, Project 6: 20 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

Week-By-Week

Class 1, 9.16

Short film of the week

Cover syllabus, D2L, Gobbler and expectations in class. Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

What do you hear? Listening and writing.

Screening: Docs on film composers

Logic: Basics 1

Homework due 9.23

Reading: Karlin Analysis Method document.

Video Tutorial: Intro to Logic Pro X

Class 2, 9.23

Karlin Method overview

Screening: clips

Theory basics

Logic: Basics 2

Homework due 9.30

Reading: Davis/Part 1, Five Veteran Film Composers-Interview. Video Tutorial: 01, 01A, 02, 03, 06, Bouncing

Project 1: Compose a 4-minute piece using Logic. Deliver in WAV, stereo interleaved, 24/48.

Class 3, 9.30

Short film of the week

Introduction, screening/commentary: **Vertigo**

Homework due 10.7

Reading: Davis/Part 2.

Video Tutorial: 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14

Video Analysis 1: Please screen a film in a commercial theatre and provide at least a 7-minute video analysis (using a cell phone or webcam) of the use of music in the film.

Class 4, 10.7

Short film of the week

The Scoring Process

Homework due 10.14

Reading: Davis/Part 3, T-Bone Burnett/ The Art of Matching Music with Movies.

Video Tutorial: 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Class 5, 10.14

Short film of the week

Electronic Music in Cinema and Virtual Instruments

Speed Dating: A deconstruction of the scoring process from spotting to delivery.

Homework due 10.21

Reading: Davis/Part 4, IntroMidi.

Video Tutorial: 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, Scoring to Picture #1- Synchronization Basics in Logic Pro, Scoring to Picture #2 – SMPTE of bar 1 in Logic Pro X.

Video Analysis 2: Please screen a film in a commercial theatre and provide at least a 7-minute video analysis (using a cell phone or webcam) of the use of music in the film.

Class 6, 10.21

Short film of the week

Workshop 1: The beginning

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework due 10.28

Reading: Setting up Logic for Scoring to Video, Top 10 Soundtrack, Score and Music Mistakes made by Filmmakers.

Project 2: (Score the beginning of assigned movie. Deliver Quicktime).

Class 7, 10.28

Short film of the week

Workshop 2: The ending

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework due 11.4, *Project 6 due 11.25*

Reading: Sampling Giveaways

Project 3: (Score the ending of assigned movie. Deliver Quicktime).

Project 6: (Due 11.25). Score a short film or scenes from a film that results in the following running time: between 5-7 minutes. Deliver in QuickTime, stereo interleaved, 24/48.

Class 8, 11.4

Short film of the week

Workshop 3: Action

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework due 11.11

Project 4: (Score assigned action sequence from film. Deliver Quicktime)

Project 6: (Due 11.25).

Class 9, 11.11

Short film of the week

<u>Workshop 4: Time, Place and Space</u>

In class scoring exercise and critique.

Homework due 11.18

Project 5 (Score assigned sequence from film. Deliver Quicktime)

Project 6 (Due 11.25).

Class 10, 11.18

Short film of the week

<u>Workshop 5: Tension</u>

Project 6 Early Looks: Present 1 minute of your Final Project.

Project 6 Presentations, 11.25, 5:45-9

Course Policies

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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend each class and to remain for the duration.

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 <u>Socially Responsible Leaders</u>. 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.

Cell Phones/On Call

If you bring a cell phone to class, it must be off or set to a silent mode. Should you need to answer a call during class, students must leave the room in an undisruptive manner. Out of respect to fellow students and the professor, texting is never allowable in class. If you are required to be on call as part of your job, please advise me at the start of the course.

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. Students complete the evaluation online in CampusConnect.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

This course will be subject to the university's academic integrity policy. More information can be found at http://academicintegrity.depaul.edu/. If you have any questions be sure to consult with your professor.

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: cdm.depaul.edu/enrollment.

Students with Disabilities

Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs. All discussions will remain confidential.
To ensure that you receive the most appropriate accommodation based on your needs, contact the instructor as early as possible in the quarter (preferably within the first week of class), and make sure that you have contacted the Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) at: csd@depaul.edu.
Lewis Center 1420, 25 East Jackson Blvd.
Phone number: (412)362-8002
Fax: (412)362-6544
TTY: (773)325.7296