

# **DC215 Intro to Sound Design**

## **Syllabus Fall 2018**

Kahra Scott-James

Monday/Wednesdays 9.40-11.10am

LPC331

### **General Course Information**

#### **Course description:**

This course is an introduction to sound design; it covers the basics of sound recording, editing and mixing. Lectures, readings, screenings will be used to examine sound design for moving image. Students will learn how to employ sound as a storytelling device through the development and design of soundtracks.

#### **Course Management Systems:**

D2L and Lynda.com

#### **Tutorials and printed resources:**

These materials are available on D2L and/or via Dropbox download link.

#### **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 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the student center.

#### **Drop dates:**

9/18 is the last day to *drop* this class with no penalty.

10/23 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.

**Project Naming Conventions:** DC215lastname\_projectname. Failure to do so will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

### **Instructor Information**

**Email:** kscottja@cdm.depaul.edu

#### **Office Hours**

Monday 12-1pm (CDM 476)

Wednesdays 12.30-5.30pm (CDM 476)

## **Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically analyze the aural components of a film.
2. Plan and create an audio drama.
3. Plan and create a soundtrack for a short film.
4. Understand the processes involved in producing audio content.
5. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in Pro Tools.

## **Grading**

**Attendance:** 20 points

**Quiz:** 10 Points

**Critical Reflection (500 word min):** 10 Points

**Project #1: Audio Drama** 30 points

- Audio Pre/Documentation (5 points)
- WIP (5 points)
- Editing & Design (10 points)
- Final Mix (10 points)

Brief/Assessment Guide on D2L

**Project #2: Short Film Soundtrack** 30 points

- WIP (10 Points)
- Editing & Design (10 points)
- Final Mix (10 points)

Brief/Assessment Guide & Clip on D2L

A = 100-93

A- = 92-90

B+ = 89-88

B = 87-83

B- = 82-80

C+ = 79-78

C = 77-73

C- = 72-70

D+ = 69-68

D = 67-63

D- = 62-60

F = 59-0.

A indicates excellence

B indicates good work

C indicates satisfactory work

D work is unsatisfactory in some respect

F is substantially unsatisfactory work

## Week-By-Week Outline

### WEEK 1

Review syllabus, projects, expectations in class. Please note: this syllabus is subject to change.

**Introduction:** The Soundtrack, Approaches to Sound Design

**Reading:** *Behind the Art*, Randy Thom

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### WEEK 2

**Audio Pre-Production:** Project 1

**Pro Tools Introduction:** Session Set-up, Templates, SFX Libraries, Importing Audio

**Reading:** *Designing for Sound*, Randy Thom

**Project #1: Audio Drama** 30 points

Tell a story through sound in 1-3 minutes. Deliver a 24/48kHz .wav Stereo File (WIP and Final Mix) to D2L

*Organize in Groups and brainstorm story ideas. Source and record assets then create your own individual version.*

**Script, Treatment, SFX Cue Sheet - Deliver to D2L by end of Week 2 9/11 5pm**

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### WEEK 3

**Group Recording Session – LOOP CAMPUS CDM724**

- **Bring USB Drives**

**Reading:** Open Letter, Rain is Sizzling Bacon

**Lynda.com:** Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin (2. Learning the Interface 3. Importing)

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### WEEK 4

**Group Recording Session – LOOP CAMPUS CDM724**

- **Bring USB Drives**

**Reading:** 5 Tricks, Backgrounds, Intro to gathering SFC, Recording Foley

**Lynda.com:** Pro Tools 11 Essential Training with Skye Lewin (4. Recording Audio, 5. Using the Edit Tools, 6. Editing Audio)

## WEEK 5

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

**Pro Tools Introduction:**

Editing/Layering Audio, Clip Gain & Volume Automation

**Reading:** 8 Practical Pro Tools Shortcuts

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## WEEK 6

**QUIZ**

**Pro Tools Introduction:**

Plugins, Time Based Effects, Dynamic Processing

**Project 1 work session**

**Project 1 WIP DUE 10/16 5pm, in-class presentations 10/17**

**Reading:** Behind the Art with Pelayo Gutierrez

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## WEEK 7

**Pro Tools Introduction:**

Project 2 Session Set-up, Working with Video

**Project 2 work session**

**Reading:** Behind the Art Tim Prebble

**Project #2: *Short Film Soundtrack:*** Create a soundtrack for the supplied 1 min clip "Burn-e gets Distracted". Please state your name and the project name at the top of the video. Deliver Early Look Quicktime to D2L. Deliver WIP & Final Quicktime to D2L.

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## WEEK 8

**Pro Tools Introduction:** Monitoring and Metering

**Project 2 Work Session**

**Reading:** Behind the Art Nicolas Becker

**PROJECT 1 DUE 10/31**

## **WEEK 9:**

**Pro Tools Introduction: Sound Mixing  
Recap & Project 2 Work Session**

**Project 2 WIP DUE 11/6 5pm, in-class Presentations 11/7**

**Reading:** The Sonic Playground/Hollywood Cinema and its Listeners

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## **WEEK 10**

**Quiz 11/14  
Final Work Session/s**

**PROJECT 2 & CRITICAL ANALYSIS DUE 11/16**

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## **WEEK 11**

**PROJECT 2 SCREENING**

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### **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. Coming 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early constitutes an absence for the student. The overall grade for attendance drops 1 point after any unexcused absence. Four absences for any reason, whether excused or not, will constitute failure for the course.

#### **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.

## **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 undistruptive 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](http://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](mailto:csd@depaul.edu).

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