

POST 326/426 – SOUND MIXING II
SYLLABUS – SPRING 2023 v1

Meeting Times: Thursdays 5:45 – 9:00 PM

- **Location:** CDM 526

Instructor: Jeff Kliment j.kliment@depaul.edu

- **Office Hours:** By appointment. **Note:** Please see me before booking a meeting on BlueStar. Thanks.
- **Office Location:** CDM 430

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This workshop based course focuses on re-recording mixing for cinema using the surround sound field. Subjects included mixing philosophies, techniques, advanced digital signal processing, and monitoring. A history of surround sound mixing will be covered. Several projects will be completed throughout the quarter.

Prerequisite: POST 324/424 – Sound Mixing I

Learning Outcomes

By the end of Post 326, students will be able to:

- Mix the audio for film clips in surround.
- Automate digital signal processes for immersive audio.
- Conform a surround mix to a revised edit.
- Utilize basic surround routing techniques in a digital audio workstation.
- Listen and identify deficiencies in a surround mix through various outputs.
- Prepare audio for basic delivery of the final mix for Digital Signal Processing.

By the end of Post 426, students will be able to:

- Mix the audio for a short film in surround.
- Complete a feature film surround mix session template.
- Complete advanced conforming techniques for surround mixes.
- Utilize advanced surround routing techniques in a digital audio workstation.
- Identify and resolve deficiencies in a surround mix through various outputs.
- Encode audio for multiple delivery platforms of the final surround mix including Digital Cinema Projection.

Recommended Readings

- Readings and related videos are available on D2L.

Materials

- A portable hard drive with **at least** 100GB free space - USB **3.0** (not 2.0), or Thunderbolt (preferably 7200 RPM) is recommended.

Assignments and Grading

- Surround Sound Music Mix 25%
- Research Project 20%
- Sound Story Project 25%
- Surround Sound Film Mix 30%

Project/File Naming Conventions

YYMMDD-FirstInitialLastName-ProjectName. (Example: 220118-JKliment-MusicMix). Incorrect naming will result in a 1-point reduction in the project grade.

SCA Studio Support

DePaul has an information portal in D2L that looks like a course. If you have any DePaul SCA related questions, the information is available there.

- If you have any **technical issues** regarding hardware or software please email: scaavsupport@depaul.edu
- For questions pertaining to **CDM lab reservations** please email: scasoundstudio@cdm.depaul.edu

Attendance and Participation

- Attendance is one of the key indicators of student success; therefore everyone is expected to attend each class meeting and to remain for the entire period. Your contribution matters. By arriving punctually each week and actively participating in class activities you are helping yourself and your colleagues. Please stay focused and refrain from distracting others and/or using electronic devices for non-class activities.
- Occasionally something may come up that prevents you from coming to school, and of course you should stay home if you are not feeling well. In those cases, please send an email to let me know what's happening.

Late Work Policy

- Work can be turned in for full credit before 11:59 PM on the due date (excluding class presentations, see below).
- Score will be reduced by 10% for each day late, for the next three calendar days only.
- Late work after three calendar days will earn zero points.
- If a student presents supporting documentation for an excused absence, the assignment will be due by 11:59 PM on the day of their return. After that, the student will receive zero points.
- If a student discusses a personal issue with the instructor in advance, a new due date may be agreed upon at the instructor's discretion.
- Class presentations will be due at the scheduled time of the presentation.

Grading Scale

A	93-100	Excellent work, shows fine attention to detail
A-	90-92	
B+	87-89	Above average work, shows solid effort
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Satisfactory, meets expectations but needs refinement
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Below average work, does not meet all requirements
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work is unfinished and/or does not demonstrate understanding of objectives

COURSE CALENDAR

(Note: this schedule is subject to change *with* notification)

Class 1 – March 30

Intro to course

What is “immersive” audio?

Sound *quality* vs. *quantity* (number of channels)

Surround sound in Pro Tools – basic concepts

Routing, I/O settings, channel and path order, surround sound panning

Foley studio overview - TBA

- **Assignment: Music Mix – Due Class 3**
- **Assignment: Sound Story Project – Proposal Due Class 3, Mix Due Class 6**
- **Recommended reading/viewing:**
 - “Surround Sound Info” (all items) in the Useful Links section on D2L

Class 2 – April 6

Surround sound in film, music, video games, and live performance

Discreet vs. matrixed encoding

Mixing music in surround – discussion and demonstration

- **Assignment: Music Mix – Due Class 3 (next week)**
- **Assignment: Sound Story Project – Proposal Due Class 3, Mix Due Class 6**

Class 3 – April 13

- **DUE TODAY: Music Mix**

- **DUE TODAY: Sound Story Proposal**

Music mixes – listening, review and discussion

Discuss sound story proposals

- **Assignment: Sound Story Project – Mix Due Class 6**

Class 4 – April 20

Plug-ins and processing (continued)

Compression and equalization (continued)

Automation (continued)

- **Assignment: Sound Story Project – Mix Due Class 6**

Class 5 – April 27

Introduce Film Mix

Introduce Research Project

- **Assignment: Sound Story Project – Mix Due Class 6 (next week)**
- **Assignment: Research Project – Due Class 8**
- **Assignment: Film Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 6 – May 4

DUE TODAY: Sound Story Project – Final Mix

Review and discussion

Research project – discuss outline and focus of research

- **Assignment: Research Project – Due Class 8**
- **Assignment: Film Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 7 – May 11

Dolby Atmos Studio Tour (details TBA)

- **Assignment: Research Project – Due Class 8**
- **Assignment: Film Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 8 – May 18

DUE TODAY: Research Project

Presentations and discussions

Advanced mixing techniques

- **Recommended reading/viewing:**
 - Review “Sound Levels and Metering” (all items) in the Useful Links section on D2L
- **Assignment: Film Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 9 – May 25

Asset creation and delivery specifications

Foley session in 724

Loudness and metering reviewed

- **Assignment: Film Mix – Due Class 11**

Class 10 – June 1

Film Mix – Screening and critiques in class

Class 11 – June 8

DUE TODAY: FILM MIX – FINAL VERSIONS SCREENED IN CLASS

DEPAUL AND CDM POLICIES

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.

COVID-19 Health and Safety Precautions

Keeping our DePaul community safe is of utmost importance in the pandemic. Students, faculty and staff are expected to (1) wear a mask as required at all times while indoors on campus; (2) refrain from eating and drinking in classrooms; (3) keep current with their COVID-19 vaccinations or exemptions; (4) stay home if sick; (5) participate in any required COVID-19 testing; (6) complete the online Health and Safety Guidelines for Returning to Campus training; and (7) abide by the City of Chicago Emergency Travel Advisory. By doing these things, we are Taking Care of DePaul, Together. The recommendations may change as local, state, and federal guidelines evolve. Students who do not abide by the mask requirement may be subject to the student conduct process and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office. Students who have a medical reason for not complying with any requirements should register with DePaul's Center for Student with Disabilities (CSD).

Respect for Diversity and Inclusion at DePaul University as aligned with our Vincentian Values

At DePaul, our mission calls us to explore "what must be done" in order to respect the inherent dignity and identity of each human person. We value diversity because it is part of our history, our traditions and our future. We see diversity as an asset and a strength that adds to the richness of classroom learning. In my course, I strive to include diverse authors, perspectives and teaching pedagogies. I also encourage open dialogue and spaces for students to express their unique identities and perspectives. I am open to having difficult conversations and I will strive to create an inclusive classroom that values all perspectives. If at any time, the classroom experience does not live up to this expectation, please feel free to contact me via email or during office hours.

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. All students are expected to abide by the University's Academic Integrity Policy which prohibits cheating and other misconduct in student coursework. Publicly sharing or posting online any prior or current materials from this course (including exam questions or answers), is considered to be providing unauthorized assistance prohibited by the policy. Both students who share/post and students who access or use such materials are considered to be cheating under the Policy and will be subject to sanctions for violations of Academic Integrity.

More information can be found at <https://resources.depaul.edu/teaching-commons/teaching/academic-integrity/Pages/default.aspx>.

Posting work on online sites, such as Hero

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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>

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>

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

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.