

Course Syllabus

Course Prefix, Number, and Title:

DAD 310 - Digital Soundtrack Production

Credits:

3

University Name:

Dakota State University

Academic Term/Year:

Fall 2022

Last date to Drop and receive 100% refund:

September 1st

Last date to Withdraw and earn a grade of 'W':

September 28th

Course Meeting Time and Location:

TR 2:30 pm – 3:45 pm Tunheim Classroom Building 209

Instructor Information:

Name:

Tate Carson

Office:

TCB 305

Email Address:

Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday 10 am – 12 pm

Additional meeting time upon request

Approved Course Description:

Catalog Description:

Create and edit soundscapes, atmosphere, and musical backgrounds for multimedia presentations using digital audio and MIDI software. Learn foundational techniques in composition, sound synthesis, looping, mixing, and sound effects application. Explore music copyright, royalty, and licensing procedures.

Additional Course Information:

This course is an introduction to sound editing and sound design. The course examines the place of sound in artistic and technological cinema. The course will cover the basics of sound,

microphones, and analog-to-digital conversion. Lectures, readings, and film clips will be used to illustrate the language of film sound, as practiced by film directors, sound designers, and editors. Students will learn to edit sound assignments with Reaper and current technologies.

Prerequisites:

Course Prerequisite(s):

DAD 222 and MUS 204

Technology Skills:

Basic understanding of a Digital Audio Workstation

Course Materials:

Required Textbook(s):

Sound Design for Film – Tim Harrison (purchase through [Perusall](#))

Student Support:

DSU Knowledge Base:

The DSU Knowledge Base contains links and resources to help students by providing information about the following topics: User Accounts & Passwords, Academic Tools & Resources, Software & Apps Support, WiFi & Network Access, Campus Emergency Alert System, Campus Printing, IT Security & Safe Computing, and the Support Desk (which is there to help both on and off-campus students). The Knowledge Base can be accessed through the link below:

[DSU Knowledge Base](#)

D2L Support for Students:

The D2L Support for Students site is designed to provide DSU students a D2L support resource center that contains user guides, tutorials, and tips for using the D2L learning environment. The D2L Support for Students site can be accessed through the link below:

[DSU D2L Support Resources for Students](#)

Course Delivery and Instructional Methods:

This is a studio course. There will be lecture and discussion based on assigned readings. Part of class time will also be reserved for work on projects.

Classroom Policies:

Attendance and Make-up Policy:

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. After **three** unexcused absences, 10 points will be deducted from the attendance grade for each additional absence.

Any excused absences must be communicated with me by email before the start of class. Explain why you are missing and when you will be returning to class. Failure to send an email will result in an unexcused absence.

Late work will only be accepted with a documented excuse. Students may redo work they received an undesirable grade on once, but only if they turned in something by the original due date. The deadline for redoing work is a week after the original due date. After this time, no late work will be accepted.

Accessibility Statement:

Dakota State University strives to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users in order to provide equal access to all. If you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and Dakota State University's ADA Office, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

DSU's ADA Office is located in the Learning Engagement Center and can be contacted by calling 605-256-5121 or emailing dsu-ada@dsu.edu. Students seeking ADA accommodations (such as non-standard note taking or extended time and/or a quiet space taking exams and quizzes) can log into the DSU portal to access <https://portal.sdbor.edu/dsu-student/student-resources/disability-services/Pages/default.aspx/> for additional information and the link to the Disability Services Request Form. You will need to provide documentation of your disability and the ADA Coordinator must confirm the need before officially authorizing accommodations.

Academic Honesty Statement:

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty run contrary to the purpose of higher education and will not be tolerated in this course. Please be advised that, when the instructor suspects plagiarism, the Internet and other standard means of plagiarism detection will be used to resolve the instructor's concerns. The South Dakota Board of Regents Student Academic Misconduct Policy can be found here: [SDBOR Policy 2.33](#).

All forms of academic dishonesty will result in << insert class specific Academic dishonesty standards here >>

Communication and Feedback:

Preferred Email Contact Method:

Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Email Response Time:

Maximum of 48 hours when class is in session

Feedback on Assignments:

Within one week of the assignment due date

Names and Pronouns:

At DSU everyone has the right to be addressed by the name and personal pronouns that correspond to their gender identity, including non-binary pronouns, for example, they/them/theirs, ze/zir/zirs, etc. Students can request a name change using the **Change Name/Preferred Name or Address** form at <https://support.dsu.edu/>. This will change the display name in D2L and across other campus systems. Students can always email me to let me know what pronouns they use.

To create and maintain an inclusive learning environment, it is important that we respect the names and pronouns of our peers in this class. I expect everyone to be serious and respectful when classmates share their names and pronouns. Mistakes in addressing one another may happen. If you hear someone make a mistake, please correct them and move on. ("I think Sam uses they, not she.") If you make a mistake or are corrected, please say "thank you" and move

on. ("Thank you. They made a great point about the film.") To learn more about pronouns and why they are important please visit <https://www.mypronouns.org/>

Student Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Critically analyze a film in terms of its aesthetic and technical sound components.
2. Plan and create an original sound design for a short film.
3. Record original sound effects, backgrounds, and voice recordings.
4. Identify the roles and responsibilities of the sound designer on a professional film.
5. Navigate basic editing and mixing functions in a digital audio workstation.
6. Understand the fundamental physics of sound.

Evaluation Procedures:

Assessments:

Attendance/participation – 30%

Projects – 50%

Final project – 20%

Final Examination:

Tuesday, December 13th, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Performance Standards and Grading Policy:

90% and above = A

80%-89% = B

70%-79% = C

60% - 69% = D

59% or below = F

Student Verification Statement and Proctoring Policy:

Federal law requires that universities verify the identity of students when course materials and/or course assessment activities are conducted either partially or entirely online. A student's Desire2Learn (D2L) login and password are intended to provide the student with secure access to course materials and are also intended to help the university meet this federal mandate. Some DSU Faculty also require the use of a proctor for exams in distance-delivered (Internet) courses and this requirement provides a second level of student identity verification. Students are responsible for any proctoring fees, if applicable. Finally, an instructor who uses web conferencing technology may require students to use a webcam during exams as another means of student identity verification through voice and visual recognition.

<< For online courses, include the verification method used for the course (i.e., proctoring, portfolio, oral exam, student observation, etc.) >>

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule:

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
1	8/22	<p><i>Introduction to Sound Design for film</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief history of film sound and the different roles. • Start working with Reaper
2	8/29	<p><i>Listening: Soundscapes, Audiences, and Stories</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to soundscape and in-class listening activities <p>9/1 – Census Day</p>
3	9/5	<p><i>Character: Psychology and Acting with Sound</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foley introduction • Film examples • Introduce Assignment 1: Foley
4	9/12	<p><i>Microphones and recording in the studio</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foley rehearsal & critique. • Assignment 1: Foley Design Due • MIDI and Editing in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 2: Foley Recording
5	9/19	<p><i>Setting: Ambience, Immersion, and Sense of Place</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical exercise: Deconstructing a scene from <i>Minority Report</i> using the four sounds areas • Zoom recorder demo • FX & Plugins, Sends & Busses in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 3: Field Recording
6	9/26	<p><i>Mood: Emotion, Tone, and Working with Music</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Folders and Track Grouping in Reaper • The Four Dimensions of a Soundtrack • Introduce Assignment 4: Editing the location sound FX • EQ, compression, and other FX

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
7	10/3	<p><i>Symbol: Sound Worlds and Metaphors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis: Apocalypse Now • Markers & Regions, Envelopes & Automation in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 5: SFX processing • Sound Synthesis • Assignment 3 DUE
8	10/10	<p><i>Shape: Sound Maps, Contrast, Motif</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis: Dogville • Video Editing and Actions in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 6: Sound Synthesis • Assignment 4: SFX Editing DUE
9	10/17	<p><i>Image: Spotting and Sound-Image Relationships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rendering in Reaper • Assignment 5 - SFX final production DUE
10	10/24	<p><i>Time: Transitions, Rhythm, and Time Perception</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating interest in sound design through time perception • Assignment 6 - Sound Synthesis DUE
11	10/31	<p><i>Space: Acoustics, Silence, and the Frequency Spectrum</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce Assignment 7: Ambiences
12	11/7	<p><i>Transformation: Otherworldly Capture and Manipulation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sonic manipulation • Introduce presentations - present a scene from a film and describe the sound in terms of emotion and the four sound areas • Assignment 7 – Ambiences DUE
13	11/14	<p><i>Finale: Mixing and Delivering a Film</i></p>
14	11/21	<p><i>Presentations + Final Intro</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class presentations • Start working on the Final, a sound design for one of Konrad Lightner's class animations • Thursday - Thanksgiving - No classes

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
15	11/28	<i>Work on final</i>
16	12/5	<i>Exam Week/Final Presentation</i> Required presentation of final project Tuesday, December 13 th , 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm in TCB 209

Freedom in Learning Statement:

Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. It has always been the policy of Dakota State University to allow students to appeal the decisions of faculty, administrative, and staff members and the decisions of institutional committees. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.

COVID-19 Policies:

During this pandemic, students must abide by all DSU policies and public health rules put forward by the state of South Dakota, the Board of Regents, and Dakota State University to promote the health and well-being of fellow students and your own personal self-care.

As with other disruptive behaviors, we have the right to dismiss you from the classroom (Zoom and physical), or other class activities if you fail to abide by these COVID-19 policies. You will also be alerted to any possible course format changes in response to DSU decisions about COVID-19 during the semester. Please visit <https://dsu.edu/covid-19.html> for more information about COVID-19 policies at DSU.