COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Prefix, Number, and Title
DAD 310 – Sound Design for Film

Credits
3

University Name
Dakota State University

Academic Term/Year
Fall 2024

Last date to Drop and receive 100% refund
9/5/24

Last date to Withdraw and earn a grade of 'W'
11/8/24

Course Meeting Time and Location
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 – 3:45 pm TCB 209

Instructor Information

Name
Tate Carson

Office
TCB 305

Phone Number(s)
605-681-6183

Email Address
Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Office Hours
MWF – 11 am - 12 pm, 2:45 - 3:45 pm, T/Th 1 – 2 pm
Please use https://calendly.com/tate-carson/office-hours to book a meeting.

Approved Course Description

Catalog Description
This course is an introduction to sound design for film and linear media. Students will examine and analyze the use of music, dialogue, and sound effects for narrative storytelling. Topics include microphone techniques, foley, field recording, sound design, and mixing.

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

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Critically analyze a film regarding 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 in a professional film.

Course Materials

Required Textbook(s)
N/A

Required Supplementary Materials
Studio quality headphones – available for rent if needed

Course Delivery and Instructional Methods

This is a studio course. Lectures and discussions based on assigned readings will take place. Part of class time will also be reserved for project work.

Communication and Feedback

Preferred Contact Method
Tate.carson@dsu.edu

Email Response Time
I will respond to your email within 48 hours during the school week.

Feedback on Assignments
Within 1-2 weeks of the assignment due date

Evaluation Procedures

Assessments
Attendance/participation – 30%
Projects – 50%
Final project – 20%

Final Examination
Tuesday, December 17, 3:30 – 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

Tentative Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
1	8/26	*Introduction to Sound Design for film* • A brief history of film sound and the different roles.
2	9/2	*Listening: Soundscapes, Audiences, and Stories* • Adding sound effects to a silent film 9/5 – Census Day
3	9/9	*Character: Psychology and Acting with Sound* • Introduce Assignment 1: Foley • Foley introduction • Film examples
4	9/16	No class this week due to conference travel
5	9/23	*Microphones and recording in the studio* • Foley rehearsal & critique. • Assignment 1: Foley Design Due • Introduce Assignment 2: Foley Recording
6	9/30	*Setting: Ambience, Immersion, and Sense of Place* • *A Quiet Place* Foley redesign in class • Assignment 2 Due • Introduce assignment 3: Field recording

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
7	10/7	*Mood: Emotion, Tone, and Working with Music* • Ambience, immersion, field recording • Assignment 3 Due • Introduce Assignment 4: Editing the location sound FX
8	10/14	Symbol: Sound Worlds and Metaphors • Analysis: Apocalypse Now • Markers & Regions, Envelopes & Automation in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 5: SFX processing • Sound Synthesis • Assignment 4 DUE
9	10/21	*Shape: Sound Maps, Contrast, Motif* • Analysis: Dogville • Video Editing and Actions in Reaper • Introduce Assignment 6: Sound Synthesis
10	10/28	*Image: Spotting and Sound-Image Relationships* • Rendering in Reaper • Assignment 5 - SFX final production DUE
11	11/4	*Time: Transitions, Rhythm, and Time Perception* • Creating interest in sound design through time perception • Assignment 6 - Sound Synthesis DUE
12	11/11	*Space: Acoustics, Silence, and the Frequency Spectrum* • Introduce Assignment 7: Ambiences
13	11/18	*Transformation: Otherworldly Capture and Manipulation* • 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
14	11/25	Finale: Mixing and Delivering a Film

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Quizzes, Tests, Deadlines
15	12/2	*Presentations + Final Intro* • Start working on the Final, a sound design for one of Konrad Lightner's class animations • Thursday – Thanksgiving Holiday – No Classes
16	12/9	Work on final

Student Success Services and Supports

ADA Accommodations
Dakota State University strives to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users 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 Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

DSU's Office of Disability Services 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 access the DSU website https://dsu.edu/student-life/disability-services/index.html 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.

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

Classroom Policies

Attendance and Make-up Policy
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes. After **three** absences, 10 points will be deducted from the attendance grade for each additional 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.

DSU Policies

Complaint Procedure

Dakota State University seeks to resolve student concerns and complaints in a fair and prompt manner. Students may file a complaint using the DSU Concerns and Feedback form. SARA complaints from out-of-state students may be filed using the procedures noted here.

Grade Appeal Policy

If a student believes the final grade assigned in a course was inappropriate, he/she may appeal that grade by filing a formal grade appeal within 15 days of the start of the next academic session. Please see the DSU policy on Appealing Academic and Administrative Decisions for the required process and form to appeal a final grade.

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.) >>

South Dakota Board of Regents Policy Statements

Freedom in Learning Statement

Under Board of Regents and Regental Institutions policy, student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Discussion and debate are critical to education and professional development. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. While the exploration of controversial topics may be an important component of meeting the student learning outcomes in a course, no student will be compelled or directed to personally affirm, adopt, or adhere to any divisive concepts (as defined in SDCL 13-1-67). Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact their home institution to initiate a review of the evaluation.

ADA Statement

The Regental Institutions strive to ensure that physical resources, as well as information and communication technologies, are reasonably accessible to users to provide equal access to all. If

you encounter any accessibility issues, you are encouraged to immediately contact the instructor of the course and the Office of Disability Services, which will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Please note: if your home institution is not the institution you are enrolled at for a course (host institution), then you should contact your home institution's Office of Disability services. The disability services at the home and host institution will work together to ensure your request is evaluated and responded to in a timely manner.

Academic Dishonesty and Misconduct

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty and misconduct run contrary to the purposes of higher education and will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, copying answers or work done by another student (either on an exam or an assignment), allowing another student to copy from you, and using unauthorized materials during an exam. The Regental Institution's policy and procedures on cheating and academic dishonesty can be found in your home institution's Student Handbook and the governing Board of Regents policies can be found in BOR Policy 2.9.2 and BOR Policy 3.4.1. The consequences for cheating and academic dishonesty are outlined in policy.

Acceptable Use of Technology

Acceptable Use of Information Technology Resources: While Regental Institutions strive to provide access to computer labs and other technology, it is the student's responsibility to ensure adequate access to the technology required for a course. This may include access to a computer (not Chromebooks, iPads, etc.), webcam, internet, adequate bandwidth, etc. While utilizing any of the information technology systems students, faculty and staff should observe all relevant laws, regulations, BOR Policy 7.1, and any institutional procedural requirements.

Emergency Alert Communication

In the event of an emergency arising on campus under BOR Policy 7.3, your Regental Home Institution will notify the campus community via the emergency alert system. It is the responsibility of the student to ensure that their information is updated in the emergency alert system. The student's cell phone will be automatically inserted if available and if not, their email address is loaded. Students can at any time update their information the student alert system.