

California Institute of the Arts, School of Film/Video

Syllabus for **Post-Production Sound** (PFV Grads)

Course Number: FPFV586-01

Semester: Spring 2015

Course Credit: 2.00

Class Meets: Thursdays 9:00am to 12:00 noon

Room: E60

Instructor: Craig Smith

Office: E104

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 to 5 by appointment

Email: csmith@calarts.edu

Web Page: <http://magicshirt.com/post.html>

Phone: 661-291-3084

Teaching Assistant: Behrouz Raei

Prerequisites:

One of the following: FPFV-285, FPFV- 385, FPFV- 585, or permission of instructor

Required of all MFA-1 Program in Film and Video students.

Course Purpose and Learning Goals:

Now that we've recorded all this sound, what do we do with it? This class will pick up where the production sound class left off, covering the basics of sound design, editing, and mixing. Our primary tool will be Pro Tools. We will also explore digital signal processing plug-ins, and SoundMiner, a sound effects database. We will use these tools and techniques to create a finished sound track for the Film Production Workshop one minute films. You should also get to the point where you are able to prepare and pre-mix the sound for your thesis project.

Methodology:

We will watch, listen, and analyze existing work most weeks. Typically, we will then go over the previous week's lab assignment, learn new concepts and techniques, practice those techniques, and start on the next lab assignment. Lab and reference handouts will be given out in class, and can also be downloaded from our website.

Assignments:

You can't get good at something without practicing. Therefore, there will be a lab assignment most weeks. The assignments should take from one to three hours each to complete. Each assignment should be copied to the class folder on the *Bishop* server before the start of the next class. ***All assignments must be completed to pass.***

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be determined by attendance and participation (45%), completion of assignments (40%), and the completion of your one minute soundtrack (15%).

Attendance Policy:

Students with more than three unexcused absences receive an No Credit grade.

In-Class Behavior:

No web browsing, active cell phones, eating, or drinking in class.

Course Schedule: (subject to change)

Week 1: Jan 15

INTRODUCTION

History

Process Overview

PRO TOOLS BASICS 1

What is Pro Tools

Hardware

Software

File Structure

File Types

Launching Pro Tools

Setting Preferences

Opening Session

Creating a Session

Session Parameters

Adding Tracks

Naming Tracks

Deleting Tracks

Importing Audio

to Region List

to Track

Time Scales & Ruler Views

Basic Editing Techniques

Edit Tools & Modes

Moving & Trimming Regions

Grabber

Trimmer

Other Trim Methods

Nudging

Edit Commands

Using the Tab Key

Fades

Fade-Ins & Fade-Outs

Cross-Fades

Smart Tool

Basic Automation

Writing Automation

Manually

Recording

Editing

Turning Automation Off

•Assignment: Basic Pro Tools Lab 1

Week 2: Jan 22

PRO TOOLS BASICS 2

Review

Working with Selections

Timeline vs. Edit Selections

Selections Across Multiple Tracks

Marking In & Out Points

Multiple Undos

Menu Structure

Main Windows

Tool Tips & Help

Organizing Files & Regions

Deleting Files & Regions

Saving Sessions

Locating & Opening Sessions

Playback Options

Scrolling

Loop Playback

Adjusting the Session View

Adjusting Track Size

Changing Track Order

Zoomer vs. Zoom Buttons

Zoom Presets

AudioSuite Plug-Ins

Time Compress/Expand

Pitch Shifting

Gain

Reverse

•Assignment: Basic Pro Tools Lab 2

Week 3: Jan 29

PRO TOOLS BASICS 3

Markers

Memory Locations Window

Creating Markers

Recalling Markers

Naming Markers

Deleting Markers

Real Time Plug-Ins

Common Features

Types

EQ

Dynamics

Reverbs & Delays

Others

Working With QuickTime Movies

Importing Movies

Session Set-Up Window

frame rate

pull-up / pull-down

Taking Movies Offline

Spotting Regions

Snap Regions to Curser

Sync Points

Snap Regions to Sync Points

Savings Sessions for Archiving

SOUND MINER

Volumes

Databases

Searching

Listening

Saving
Downloading
•Assignment: Sync Pro Tools Lab 3

Week 4: Feb 5

PLUG-INS 1
Session Layout
Auxiliary Tracks
Busses
Sends
Effects Tracks
Sub-Masters
Master Tracks
Differences in Audio Paths

•Assignment: Sync Pro Tools Lab 4

Week 5: Feb 12

PLUG-INS 2
Advanced Plug-Ins
Equalizers
Dynamics
Reverb & Delay
Harmonic
Time & Pitch

•Assignment: Sync Pro Tools Lab 5

Week 6: Feb 19

AVID MC TO PT TO MC
Basic Sound Editing
Stereo vs. Mono tracks & Regions
Using Plug-Ins
Which Will Export?
Exporting for Pro Tools
OMF & AAF
AIFF
QuickTime
Importing into Pro Tools
OMF & AAF
Handles
Quicktime review
Sound or No Sound
TELECINE ISSUES
Frame Rate Differences
Pull Downs
Clocking Issues

•Assignment: OMF Import to PT Lab 6

Week 7: Feb 26

DIALOG EDITING
Track Layout
By Angle
Ambiance
Production Effects Tracks

Splitting
To Match Level & Air
For Perspective

Filling Holes
Finding Ambiance

Hiding the Cuts
Cross-Fading

Siding Cuts
Back-Filling

•Assignment: Edit Dialog Lab 7

Week 8: Mar 5

EDITING & MIXING 1

Session Templates
Session Layout
Auxiliary Tracks

Busses

Sends

Effects Tracks

Sub-Masters

Master Tracks

Difference in Audio Path

•Assignment: Editing/Mixing Lab 8

Week 9: Mar 12

EDITING & MIXING 2

Sound Effects Editing
Effects from Production

Effects from Library

Foley Effects

Custom Effects

Manipulating Effects

Time

Pitch

Layering

Track Organization

Mono vs. Stereo

•Assignment: Editing/Mixing Lab 9

Week 10: Mar 19

DIALOG REPLACEMENT

Analysis of Tracks

Preparing ADR Script

Setting Up Session

Working With Actors

Creating Takes

Adjusting Sync

VocAlign LE

FOLEY RECORDING

Preparing Cue Sheets

Gathering Props & Surfaces

Perspective--Now vs. Later

•Assignment: Sync ADR/Foley Lab 10

Week 11: Mar 26 NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK

Week 12: Apr 2

Work on one minute films.

Week 13: Apr 09

Work on one minute films.

Week 14: Apr 10

No Class--1 minute mixes

Week 15: Apr 23

ADR/FOLEY SESSION

Setting up telecine for one minutes

Week 16: Apr 30

MIXING 3

Surround Basics

Monitoring Systems

Film & Electronic Cinema

Video

Preparing for DVD

Outputting Mixes

Bouncing to Track

Bouncing to Disk

Outputting for Pix

Week 17: May 7

conclusions

Week 18: May 14 NO CLASS! – Bijou Festival

Suggested Reading / Materials:

Pro Tools 11 Ignite!: The Visual Guide for New Users (512 pages)

by Andrew Lee Hagerman (Author)

\$34.43 at Amazon; \$28 for Kindle

ISBN-10: 1285848217

ISBN-13: 978-1285848211

Publisher's Description:

Covering the fundamental features of Pro Tools, including recording and editing audio, using MIDI, and mixing, PRO TOOLS 11 IGNITE! brings you up to speed one step at a time, using a proven method of visual instruction that will have you navigating the Pro Tools interface like a pro in no time.

Pro Tools 101: An Introduction to Pro Tools 11 (official Avid textbook) (336 pages)

by Frank D. Cook

ISBN-10: 1285774841

ISBN-13: 978-1285774848

\$36.13 at Amazon; \$35 for Kindle

Publisher's Description:

...comprehensive approach to learning the fundamentals of Pro Tools systems. Now updated for Pro Tools 11 software, this new edition... covers everything you need to know to complete a Pro Tools project. Through hands-on tutorials, develop essential techniques for recording, editing, and mixing. The included DVD-ROM provides media files and Pro Tools sessions to accompany the exercises and projects in the text.

Pro Tools Reference Guide, Version 11.1 (PDF)

by Avid Technology, Inc.

PDF – on all Pro Tools computers, and the class web site

1, 288 paages