

California Institute of the Arts, School of Film/Video

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

Course Number: FPFV586-01

Semester: Spring 2018

Course Credit: 2.00

Class Meets: Thursdays 9:00am to 11:50am

Room: E105

Instructor: Craig Smith

Office: E104

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 9 to 5 by appointment

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Teaching Assistant: Ruolin Xu (ruolinxu@alum.calarts.edu)

Prerequisites:

One of the following: FPFV-285, FPFV- 385, FPFV- 585, or permission of instructor
Required of all MFA1 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 two minute Soundscape that will then have video applied after the sound design. We will also do a Total Rebuild, replacing all sound in a finished piece of video. You should end up with skills that will allow you to conceptualize, prepare, and pre-mix the sound for your own thesis project.

Methodology:

We will watch, listen, and analyze existing work most weeks. Typically, we will then go over the previous week's assignments, learn new concepts and techniques, practice those techniques, and start on the next 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 an assignment most weeks. The assignments should take from one to three hours per week outside of class to complete. Each assignment should be copied to my Depositbox on the *fvcentral* 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 (40%), completion of assignments (30%), and the completion of your Total Rebuild soundtrack (30%).

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 11

INTRODUCTION - PRO TOOLS BASICS 1

- What is Pro Tools
 - Hardware
 - Software
 - File Structure
 - File Types
- Launching Pro Tools
 - Preferences
 - Opening Session
- Creating a Session
 - PT Templates
 - Session Parameters
- Importing Audio
 - to Region List
 - to Track
- Time Scales & Ruler Views
- Basic Editing Techniques
- Edit Tools & Modes
 - Moving & Trimming Regions
 - Edit Commands
- Fades
- Basic Automation
 - Writing Automation
 - Manually
 - Recording
 - Editing
 - Turning Automation Off

•Assignment: Gather Sounds for Soundscape Projects

Week 2: Jan 18

PRO TOOLS BASICS 2

- Review
- Working with Selections
- 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

•Assignment: Lab 1: Sports News Edit

Week 3: Jan 25

•Hand in Lab 1: Sports News Edit

•Hand in Sounds for Soundscapes

PRO TOOLS BASICS 3

- Markers
- Working With QuickTime Movies
- Importing Movies
- Session Set-Up Window
 - frame rate
 - pull-up / pull-down
- Taking Movies Offline
- Spotting Regions
- Snap Regions to Cursor
- Sync Points
- Snap Regions to Sync Points
- Saving Sessions for Archiving

SOUND EFFECTS & SOUND MINER

- Volumes
- Databases
- Searching
- Listening
- Saving
- Downloading

•Assignment: Lab 2: Dow Tao Sound Design

Week 4: Feb 1

•Hand In Lab 2: Dow Tao Sound Design

PLUG-INS 1: EQUALIZATION

- Real Time Plug-Ins
 - Common Features
 - Types
 - EQ
 - Dynamics
 - Reverbs & Delays
 - Others
 - AudioSuite Plug-Ins

•Assignment: Create Soundscape Version 1

Week 5: Feb 8

PLUG-INS 2: DYNAMICS & REVERB

- Dynamics Control
 - Compression
 - Limiting
 - Downward expansion
- Time Smearing
 - Reverb & Delay
 - Harmonics
 - Time & Pitch

•Assignment: Continue Soundscape Version 1

Week 6: Feb 15

•Listen to *Version 1 Soundscapes*
 PLUG-INS 3: CREATIVE MANGLING

Micro-editing
 AIR & unusual plugins
 Worldizing
 Stereo vs. Mono tracks & effects

•Assignment: Find or create video for randomly assigned Soundscapes to create *Soundscape Version 2*

Week 7: Feb 22

•Listen/Watch *Version 2 Soundscapes*
 Editing & MIXING 1

Template Layout
 Auxiliary Tracks
 Busses
 Sends
 Effects Tracks
 Sub-Masters
 Master Tracks
 Differences in Audio Paths
 Exporting for Pro Tools
 OMF & AAF
 AIFF
 QuickTime
 DAW Audio Plugins
 Importing into Pro Tools

TELECINE ISSUES

Frame Rate Differences
 Pull Downs
 Clocking Issues

•Begin *Remix to Create Soundscapes Version 3*

Week 8: Mar 1

EDITING & MIXING 2: DIALOGUE

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: Continue *Remix to Create Soundscapes Version 3*

•Assignment: Find Video for *Total Rebuild*

Week 9: Mar 8

•Listen/Watch *Version 3 Soundscapes*
 TOTAL REBUILD 1

Sound Effects Editing
 Foley Effects
 Custom Effects
 Manipulating Effects
 Time
 Pitch
 Layering
 Track Organization
 Mono vs. Stereo

•Assignment: *Total Rebuild Sound Design*

Week 10: Mar 15

MEET IN A112 RECORDING STUDIO
 DIALOG REPLACEMENT SESSION

Analysis of Tracks
 Preparing ADR Script
 Setting Up Session
 Working With Actors
 Creating Takes
 Adjusting Sync
 VocAlign LE

•Assignment: Create a cue list to record foley for *Total Rebuild project*

Week 11: Mar 22

MEET IN A112 RECORDING STUDIO
 FOLEY RECORDING SESSION

Preparing Cue Sheets
 Gathering Props & Surfaces
 Perspective--Now vs. Later

•Assignment: Continue *Total Rebuild Sound Design*

Week 12: Mar 29

NO CLASS -- SPRING BREAK

Week 13: Apr 5

•Listen/Watch *Total Rebuild Sessions*
 OPTICAL TRACKS

Optical track preparation
 Experimental optical tracks
 Organizing Rebuild tracks for Mix
 Artist Mix mix surfaces

•Assignment: Finalize *Total Rebuild Sound Design*

Week 14: Apr 12

MIXING IN THE BOX

Output formats & codecs
 creating use of codecs
 Laybacks & DCPs

Week 15: Apr 19**SURROUND SOUND 1: CONCEPTS**

History of Surround
Surround Technologies
Basics & Demos of Surround Mixing
CalArts Mix Template

•*Assignment: Create Surround Version of
Total Rebuild Session*

Week 16: Apr 26**MEET IN A111 MIX THEATER****SURROUND SOUND 2: PRACTICE**

Optical mixing in Mix Theater
Surround mixing in Mix Theater

Week 17: May 3**MEET IN A111 MIX THEATER****SURROUND SOUND 3: PRACTICE**

•*Listen/Watch Total Rebuild Surround Versions*

Optical mixing in Mix Theater
Surround mixing in Mix Theater
Layback Examples

CONCLUSIONS**Week 18: May 10****NO CLASS! – Bijou Festival**

Suggested Reading / Materials:

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

by Andrew Lee Hagerman (Author)

\$39.99 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

\$45.59 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 12.5 (PDF)

by Avid Technology, Inc.

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

1,303 pages