

# College of Lake County

DMD 173: Introduction to Digital Sound

Spring 2022

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**Instructor** Marco Ferrari  
**Class** Monday, 10:00 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Room D131/ Recording Studio L007  
**Email** mferrari@clcollinois.edu  
**Office Hours** By Appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction and exploration of digital sound for digital media. Using industry relevant audio software, students will learn how to compose, edit and mix digital audio files, understand various sound file formats, the physics of digital sound, learn a basic understanding of recording equipment, the history of digital sound, and the difference between analog and digital sound editing. Students will explore the different job titles within the audio production industry and learn to work collaboratively within a team environment.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon successfully completing the course, students will have competency in:

- understanding the physics and composition of sound
- composing and editing digital sound tracks into complete compositions
- understanding and applying concepts and equipment used in digital sound
- exploring current hardware and software programs used in the field of digital audio production
- understanding microphone uses and techniques
- incorporating audio into video and/or animation projects
- methods of composing and placing voice-overs into narrative environments
- experimenting with audio effects
- understanding compression rates for audio export
- how to create, import, export, transfer and save audio files in various formats
- participating in critiquing of personal and peer projects

## PREREQUISITE

Language Proficiency

## **COURSE MATERIALS**

### Recommended Texts

Nahmani, David, **Logic Pro X 10.3: Apple Pro Training Series: Professional Music Production**, Peachpit Press, 2017. ISBN: 0-134-85103-0

Cancellaro, Joseph, **Sound Design for Interactive Media**, Thomson Delmar Learning, 2006. ISBN: 1-4018-8102-5

Hegarty, Paul, **Noise/Music: A History**, The Continuum International Publishing Group Inc., 2007. ISBN: 0-8264-1727-2

### Online Resources

**www.archive.org** free audio clips and user groups

**www.findsounds.com** free audio clips

various sites

### Materials Needed

External hard drive, 500 GB+

Headphones (over ear)

Lab notebook

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

See course schedule handout

## **ATTENDANCE**

Attendance is **mandatory**. You have two (2) unexcused absences for the course. After three (3) unexcused absences, your final course grade will be lowered by one full letter grade. Four (4) unexcused absences will result in failure of the course. Three (3) tardies will constitute one absence. Due to the nature of this course, it is imperative that you attend class regularly in order to understand the logical flow of the course materials and projects. You will be marked late if you are not present at the start of class. If you are not present at the end of class, you will be marked absent.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

- Students are required to attend class on time and stay throughout the class period.
- Willingness to experiment and take genuine artistic risks.

- Ability to be resourceful and seek out help when needed.
- Your participation in critiques is vital to the experience of the class and your evolution as an artist. Each student will be required to give a verbal presentation of their work as well as critique the work of their classmates.
- You are encouraged to share knowledge amongst yourselves during lab times - remember, there's much you can learn from each other.
- Taking notes in class is essential and will help you remember what you've learned when you are working on your own time.
- If you are absent, it is your responsibility to get notes from your peers. Do not ask a faculty to re-teach a class for you.
- Please do not use Email, Facebook, Twitter, text or play games during class. If I have to ask you stop doing it, it will constitute one tardy.

## **RECORDING GUIDELINES**

The use of tape recording or other recording devices by a College of Lake County student is dependent upon the particular course, program and the permission of the instructor. CLC students acknowledge that their classroom discussions and participation may be recorded. CLC students further acknowledge that any authorized recording of a class or program is for their use only and may not be accessed or utilized by any other individual. Use of any course or program recordings shall be used for educational purposes only and no replication or reproduction of the recording shall be made without the express written consent of the instructor and College of Lake County. Any student determined to have violated this procedure/rule shall be subject to discipline under the College's Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy and Procedures.

Students requesting to record a class pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act shall contact the Office for Students with Disabilities at (847) 543-2474.

## **GRADING POLICY AND ASSIGNMENTS**

This course is divided between lectures, discussions, readings, assignments, and projects. The following information details the course material you will be graded on and the policy for evaluation.

All students will be graded in the following two categories. These two categories will, together, make up your final grade for the course.

### **1. Projects - 500 points**

Three (3) projects will be required throughout the semester. Two projects will be completed by each student individually, and the third project will be a collaborative piece. Projects will cover a range of issues, including concepts, theory, creative practice and technical skills. You will have

complete creative freedom concerning each project. Critiques are required and are considered part of each project. If you don't show up to class for a critique or do not participate, your project will be considered incomplete and will receive a failing grade. **No project will receive credit if not submitted on the due date.**

Projects will be graded on:

- Completion of assignment based on criteria given
- Conceptual, creative and technical understanding
- Depth of involvement and dedication
- Technical proficiency with the software
- Documentation of all processes
- Visual and verbal presentation

## **2. Quizzes - 30 points**

There will be (2) quizzes given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be based on material covered in class including: digital audio terminology, concepts, theories and technical knowledge and practice with microphones.

### **Total Semester Points/Grading Scale**

A = 530 – 477 | 100 - 90% = Superior  
B = 476 – 424 | 89 - 80% = Above Average  
C = 423 – 371 | 79 - 70% = Average  
D = 370 – 318 | 69 - 60% = Below Average  
F = 3417 – 0 | 59 - 0% = Failure

If you plan to discontinue the course at anytime during the semester, it is strongly recommended that you take responsibility for dropping the course. Grades of W will only be assigned to students who drop themselves.

### **Important Dates**

1. Last date to withdraw with refund & no grade: **2/7/2022**
2. Last date to withdraw with W grade: **4/12/2022**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You must do your own work on assignments and exams. Plagiarism, copying other people's work and claiming it as yours, violates the College Policies Governing Student Rights and Responsibilities. Plagiarized work will be graded as an F and the student may be permanently removed from class.

## **WHERE TO GET HELP**

Your success in this class is important to me. Various facilities and resources are available at CLC to help you with your course work. And we are here to help you through any difficult areas. So please let us know if you would like help.

If you have a documented disability that requires note-taking, test-taking, and other special accommodation or modification in procedures, class activity, instruction, requirements, etc., please let me know. You must contact the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), which is located in room B171 at the Grayslake campus, or call (847) 543-2474 or email [osd@clcillinois.edu](mailto:osd@clcillinois.edu) to arrange for any necessary accommodations. If you have an Instructor Notification Form, please make an appointment to see me so we can discuss the accommodations that you need in this course.

The College of Lake County Counseling, Advising and Transfer Services, offers academic advisement and professional counseling for students who are in crisis or are having personal problems, which may affect their academic and career goals. The services of professional counselors are available at three locations on an appointment or drop-in basis: Grayslake Campus, A124, (847) 543-2060, Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan, N211, (847) 543-2186, and Southlake Campus in Vernon Hills, V130, (847) 543-6501.

## **COMPUTING ENVIRONMENT AND FACILITY**

Six computers (equipped with all software needed for DMD courses) in the library at the Grayslake campus are reserved for students enrolled in Digital Media + Design courses.

Library Hours: visit [www.clcillinois.edu](http://www.clcillinois.edu) for spring hours.

## **ACCESS TO LABS D131 AND D133 (Grayslake Campus)**

To gain access to labs D131 and D133 when a class is not in session, go to the lab, call Campus Police (847) 543-2081 and wait at the lab door for an officer to arrive and let you into the lab.

## **FERPA STATEMENT**

To be in compliance with the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** and to guarantee the students' privacy, CLC personnel will communicate with students only through the official college email address. Contact the Help Desk if you experience problems with your student email.