

CTPR 340 - Creating the Motion Picture Sound Track
 Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:50pm SCA B128
 Fall 2019

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Statement:

Cinema is a relatively young, collaborative art form, and **SOUND** is perhaps the least-understood part of the process.

Course Objective:

CTPR 340 is a comprehensive course that teaches the skills needed for creating a short film. While we will learn basic cinematography and editing techniques, the intention of this course is to prepare a non-production student for participation in *Production* and *Post Production* sound. It will cover:

- Properly recording *Production* sound on set
- Properly editing *Post-Production* sound with *Pro Tools*
- Preparing your finished sound elements for the Final Mix

Areas covered in CTPR 340 will include:

CAMERA:

Sony EX-1
 Basic Cinematography
 Framing & Shot List

RECORDING:

Production Recording
 Boom Op Techniques
 ADR & Foley

EDITING:

Editing in *Media Composer*
 Sound Design in *Pro Tools*
 ADR, Foley & Music

**PLEASE NOTE:
 FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY
 INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX**

Schedule:

Week 1 Aug. 17

Orientation & Overview

Breakdown what will be covered over the semester
Teams formed: 2 - 4 people per team
Tour facilities (Pro Tools/Editing Labs, Foley & ADR)
Pass out paperwork - scripts, syllabus, etc.
Watch movie clips and talk about sound choices
HW: Watch scene from fav film, discuss sound choices in class

Week 2 Sep. 03

Prepare For Filming & Equipment Intro

Quickly review assignment
Discuss production needs, troubleshoot possible problems
Casting, mark up script, pick locations (SCA)
Camera & Sound Package Orientation (assembly & settings)
HW: Begin designing shot-list, casting, etc.

Week 3 Sep. 10

Equipment Tutorial – Picture & Sound

Assemble Camera Kits – review basic settings
Assemble Sound Kits – review settings & boom op techniques
Improv a scene in class – slate tutorial and record picture/sound
HW: Prep for filming!

Week 4 Sep. 17

Film Assigned Material on SCA Campus

Grab gear and go!
HW: Take a breath

Week 5 Sep. 24

Screen Dailies & Intro to Media Composer

Watch dailies – learn how to give/take notes
Introduction to Media Composer
HW: Open your movie outside of class and make a few cuts

Week 6 Oct. 01

Media Composer Tutorial

Learn basic editing techniques & organize footage
NOTE: The bulk of editing will be completed on your own time.
You have access to Avid labs so set a schedule & share workload.
HW: Continue editing, rough cut due next week!

Week 7 Oct. 08

Media Composer Advanced Techniques

Present rough cut, give/take notes in class
Learn additional editing techniques
Finish titles, Color Correction or any other visual effects
HW: Last chance to edit, final cut/picture lock due next week!

Week 8 Oct. 15

Picture lock & Sound Spotting

Playback projects, discuss sound problems and solutions
Spot for sound effects and music
Watch movie clips in class in preparation for sound design

- Week 9 Oct. 22 **Pro Tools Tutorial & Post Sound Theory**
Learn basics of Pro Tools software
Post Production theory – What are DX, FX, BG & MX?
In class begin dialogue edit and get feedback
HW: Complete dialogue edit by next class! DO NOT MIX SOUND
- Week 10 Oct. 29 **How to Walk & Record Foley**
Class meets in Foley room!
Quickly review dialogue edit, take notes
HW: Create foley cue sheet for next class, edit MX into film
- Week 11 Nov. 05 **Pro Tools Advanced Techniques & Sound Critique**
Learn how to design FX & BG
Learn Soundminer for searching the FX library and Opus 1 for MX
Mono vs Stereo & more dialogue review
HW: Finish DX and complete pass of FX and BG sound design
- Week 12 Nov. 12 **Sound Playback for Feedback**
Review films and provide notes for finishing sound
Review a completed Pro Tools session
HW: This is your last chance, get everything done!
- Week 13 Nov. 19 **Record Foley**
Class is divided between Foley “walkers” and engineers
Rotate groups and complete ALL foley recording
Properly arrange tracks for final mix
HW: Edit foley, and integrate into Pro Tools session
- Week 14 Nov. 26 **Intro to Mixing**
Basic mixing techniques (Level, EQ, Pan, Reverb)
Each group gets a “pre-mix” session
Introduction to mixing console
HW: Make sure project is mix ready, and properly labeled
- Week 15 Dec. 03 Final Mixes for each project completed during class!

Please note: Syllabus subject to change depending on availability of equipment and facilities.

Grading:

If you *show up on time, work hard* and have a *good attitude*, you will get a good grade!

- Active participation in class: 45%
- Active participation during filming/production: 20%
- Active participation during post production: 20%
- Active participation and completion of homework assignments: 15%

Class participation includes giving maximum effort during classroom exercises, contributing to all class discussions, and offering thoughtful, constructive comments.

All assignments will be evaluated both on the quality of the work and the ability to meet deadlines.

Attendance will influence your *final grade*.

Attendance:

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. Two absences will result in a student's grade being lowered by one full letter (IE: A becomes B). A third absence will result in a student's grade being lowered by one, additional full letter (IE: B becomes C). A student's grade will be lowered by one full letter for each additional absence. Two late class arrivals equate to one full absence.

Please use the attendance sheet to sign in at the beginning of each class.

Technical Support:

SCA Help Desk

Walk-up support at the help desk window (SCA B139) during the SCA Lab Hours

Contact Info: (213) 821-2638

Creative Technology and Support

Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 8:30 pm

Contact Info: (213) 821-4571, creativetech@cinema.usc.edu

SCA Knowledgebase

<http://knowledgebase.sca.usc.edu/>

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University Standards" policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

Student Health Leave Coordinator – 213-821-4710

Located in the USC Support and Advocacy office, the Health Leave Coordinator processes requests for health leaves of absence and advocates for students taking such leaves when needed. <https://policy.usc.edu/student-health-leave-absence/>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

Bias Assessment Response and Support - (213) 740-2421

studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions for appropriate investigation and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Diversity and Inclusion are foundational to the SCA community. We are committed to fostering a welcoming and supportive environment where students of all identities and backgrounds can flourish. The classroom should be a space for open discussion of ideas and self-expression; however, SCA will not tolerate verbal or written abuse, threats, harassment, intimidation or violence against person or property. If students are concerned about these matters in the classroom setting they are encouraged to contact their SCA Diversity and Inclusion Liaison, <http://cinema.usc.edu/about/diversity.cfm>; e-mail diversity@cinema.usc.edu. You can also report discrimination based on a protected class here <https://equity.usc.edu/harassment-or-discrimination/>

Disruptive Student Behavior:

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students' ability to learn and an instructor's ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave class pending discussion and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.