

**CTPR 340 - Creating the Motion Picture Soundtrack**  
Tuesdays 1:00pm – 3:50pm  
Spring 2022

Professor: Chris Morocco  
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Office Hours: By appointment only

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**Statement:**

Cinema is a relatively young, collaborative art form, and **SOUND** is perhaps the least-understood part of the process - so let's dive in!

**Course Objective:**

CTPR 340 is a comprehensive course that teaches the skills needed for post production sound for film and new media as well as some production recording tips. It will cover:

- Sound editing of *Dialogue, Backgrounds & SFX*
- Sound mixing basics like *Level, EQ, Pan, & Reverb*
- Building an industry standard Pro Tools template
- Learning various plugins like a *compressor* and *EQ*
- Film discussion to increase general "Film IQ"
- Generally building your sound knowledge and vocabulary
- Basic Production Sound techniques

Class will be a combination of learning theory, working in Pro Tools, learning production sound techniques and watching movie clips outside of class in order to discuss. The overall goal of this class is to teach you the technical craft of post production sound, as well as expand your "sound vocabulary" so you can speak and critique with confidence!

**Required Viewings & Supplementary Materials**

Be prepared to watch films and YouTube clips on your own time. Home viewing assignments will be sent via email after class.

**YouTube & The Internet**

It should also be noted that this class relies on YouTube tutorials created by the professor, and these will serve as supplemental material to class. While questions are encouraged, please *consider watching the YouTube tutorials* first to see if this will resolve your issue. Lastly, be careful of any other websites that are not approved by the professor as the internet is quite literally the wild, wild west. Not to say other sources are discouraged, but please be careful and feel free to cross reference what you learned elsewhere in class.

**Grading Breakdown:**

We will be working on one assignment for the entire semester.

Therefore, there is not a traditional midterm or final exam. Instead, we will be learning new techniques every week, and applying them to the same Pro Tools Session. Grading instead breaks down to your participation in class (including punctuality) and turning in screenshots and .wav files from your semester long assignment in Pro Tools.

**Participation In Class = 50%**

- Punctuality: 10%*
- Attendance: 10%*
- Asking Questions & Contributions: 10%*
- Film Discussion Participation: 10%*
- Responsiveness To Emails 10%*

**Semester Long Pro Tools Assignment = 50%**

- Backgrounds: 10%*
- SFX: 10%*
- Dialogue: 10%*
- Routing, Reverb & Music: 10%*
- Volume / Pan Automation: 10%*

*Please submit your weekly progress by 8pm on Monday night before the class it's due.*

**A Remote Note:**

WE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE IN PERSON FOR THE ENTIRE SEMESTER!

As a former USC student, I completely understand that remote work can be a challenge, and hopefully we do not have to go back to Zoom. I may ask that some meetings outside of class are still done via Zoom, but otherwise be prepared to meet in person!

USC provides opportunities for Mindful Meditation <http://mindful.usc.edu> and Mental health counseling is available at the Engemann Student Health Center, 1031 W. 34th Street, 213-740-9355.

Thanks again for continuing your education during this difficult time.

**Schedule:**

Week 1 Jan. 11

**Intro, Icebreaker & Movie Clips (ZOOM)**

Introduce Yourself!

Syllabus Review

Watch & Discuss *A Quiet Place* Foley Clip

Watch & Discuss *Jurassic Park* T-Rex Clip

HW: Watch *Arrival* & Submit Written Response

Week 2 Jan. 18

**Arrival Discussion & More Movie Clips (ZOOM)**

*Arrival* Discussion

Watch Additional *Arrival* BTS Clips & Discuss

Watch & Discuss *Social Network* Vs *Collateral* Music Clips

HW: Watch *3 Mistakes That Beginners Make In Pro Tools & I Can't Hear Anything In Pro Tools (3 Possible Fixes)*

Week 3 Jan. 25

**Pro Tools Bootcamp & What Is Post Sound? (SCA B128)**

Watch What Is Post Production Sound & Discuss

Watch Pro Tools Bootcamp on YouTube & Discuss

Introduce *Sign Man* Semester Long Assignment

Watch *Sign Man* Clip & Discuss

HW: Watch *Social Network* & Submit Written Response. Watch *Bounce To Disk & Quicktime In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Week 4 Feb. 1

**Social Network Discussion & Backgrounds (SCB B115)**

*Social Network* Discussion

Watch Additional *Social Network* YouTube BTS Clips & Discuss

Listen To *Social Network* BGs in Class

Watch *Editing Backgrounds in Pro Tools* & Discuss

Additional In Class Background Demo

Introduce & Explain Sound Libraries

HW: Complete BGs for *Signman*

Week 5 Feb. 8

**Sound Effects - Realistic v Impressionistic (SCB B115)**

Review A Few BG Sessions In Class

Watch *Godfather* Clip & Discuss

Watch *Pulp Fiction* Clip & Discuss

In Class Sound Effects Demo

HW: Complete Sound Effects for *Signman*

Week 6 Feb. 15

**Dialogue Editing 1 - Boom (SCB B115)**

Review A Few SFX Sessions In Class

Watch *Dialogue Editing In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Additional In Class Dialogue Edit Demo

Watch *Breaking Bad* Clip & Discuss

Begin Dialogue Edit In Class

HW: Complete "Boom Mic" Dialogue Editing for *Signman*

Week 7 Feb. 22

**Dialogue Editing 2 - Lav (SCB B115)**

Review A Few Dialogue Sessions In Class

In Class Lav Edit Demo

Watch Wall-E Animation Foley and Sound Design

HW: Complete "Lav Mic" Dialogue Editing for *Signman*

Week 8 Mar. 1

**In Class Foley! (SCA B106)**

Record Foley for *Sign Man*

In Class Midterm Evaluations

HW 1: Complete Foley Editing for *Signman*

HW 2: Watch *Sound Of Metal* & Submit Written Response

Week 9 Mar. 8

**Compression & EQ (SCB B115)**

*Sound Of Metal* Discussion

Watch *Compression On Dialogue In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Watch *EQ On Dialogue In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Additional In Class Compression & EQ Demos

Begin Learning Mixing Console

HW: Complete Compression & EQ for *Signman*

Week 10 Mar. 22

**Routing, Reverb & Music (SCB B115)**

Watch *What Is Routing Sound?* & Discuss

Watch *Routing A Reverb* & Discuss

Additional In Class Routing, Reverb & Music Demos

HW: Complete Routing, Reverb & Music for *Signman*

HW 2: Watch *Tenet* & Submit Written Response

Weeks 11 Mar. 29

**Volume / Pan Automation (SCB B115)**

*Tenet* Discussion

Watch *Volume Automation In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Watch *Pan Automation In Pro Tools* & Discuss

Additional In Class Volume & Pan Automation Demos

HW: Complete Volume / Pan Automation for *Signman*

Week 12 Apr. 5

**Production Sound - Boom & Mixer (SCB B115)**

In Class Production Mixer Demo

In Class Boom Operator Demo

In Class Filming & Sound Recording

HW: Complete *Signman* Rough Mix

Week 13 Apr. 12

**Production Sound - Lavs (SCB B115)**

Review Boom Recordings

In Class Lav Placement Demo

In Class Filming & Sound Recording

Quick In Class Lav Review

HW: Complete *Signman* Fine Mix

Week 14 Apr. 19      **Mix Review 1 (SCB B115)**  
One On One *Signman* Review Part 1  
HW: Complete MIX 03 for *Signman*

Week 15 Apr. 26      **Mix Review 2 & Final Class (SCB B115)**  
One On One *Signman* Review Part 2  
Career Discussion & Life After Class  
Final Class Hang : )

Please note, syllabus is subject to change depending on availability of equipment, guest speakers and facilities.

Please make sure you bring headphones to class every week, my recommendation is [Sony MDR-7506 Headphones](#)

Here is a link to [Chris Morocco Sound](#) on YouTube

### **Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software (OPTIONAL)**

A VPN number can be provided for students to access Pro Tools for the semester outside of school. We must verify early in the semester that:

- Students are able to download a copy of Pro Tools
- The VPN number(s) provided work properly to license the software
- Students have a computer that has the minimum system requirements

### **Attendance:**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class.

Students are expected to be on time (ideally 5 - 15 minutes early) 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.

### **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](mailto: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](http://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](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

### **Safety:**

All students are expected to abide by USC School of Cinematic Arts Safety Guidelines. Violations of any of the safety guidelines may result in disciplinary action ranging from confiscation of footage to expulsion from the University.

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Stressful Times:**

These are stressful times in our country, and Graduate School in and of itself is stressful. I encourage you to take care of yourself and your fellow students. USC provides opportunities for Mindful Meditation <http://mindful.usc.edu> and Mental health counseling is available at the Engemann Student Health Center, 1031 W. 34th Street, 213-740-9355.

## **Support Systems:**

### **Counseling and Mental Health** - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](http://studenthealth.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](http://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 and Services (RSVP)** - (213)

740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](http://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

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

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)- (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

[equity.usc.edu](http://equity.usc.edu), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by 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. The university also prohibits sexual assault, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence, stalking, malicious dissuasion, retaliation, and violation of interim measures.

### **Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment** - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report)

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity | Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

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

[dsp.usc.edu](http://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 Campus Support & Intervention** - (213) 821-4710

[campussupport.usc.edu](http://campussupport.usc.edu)

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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

**Office of the Ombuds** - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

[ombuds.usc.edu](http://ombuds.usc.edu)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

PLEASE NOTE:

FOOD AND DRINKS ARE NOT PERMITTED INDOORS IN THE SCHOOL OF  
CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX DURING COVID



<b>Open Registration</b>	Thu-Fri	January 6-7
<b>Classes Begin</b>	Mon	January 10
<b>Martin Luther King's Birthday</b>	Mon	January 17
<b>President's Day</b>	Mon	February 21
<b>Spring Recess</b>	Sun-Sun	March 13-20
<b>Classes End</b>	Fri	April 29
<b>Study Days</b>	Sat-Tue	April 30-May 3
<b>Exams</b>	Wed-Wed	May 4-11
<b>Commencement</b>	Thu-Sun	May 13