Syllabus:
ACM-374: Post Production Sound
SPRING 2011

Class Meets: Monday 4:30–7:15pm, GRG 214
Credit Hours: 3 / Prerequisites: ACM 372. Restricted to Majors

Instructor: George Chun Han Wang
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Email: wangch@hawaii.edu
Office: 2350 Dole St. #215
Office Hours: Monday: 3:00 pm—4:15 pm
            Wednesday: 12:30 pm—2:15 pm
            Friday: 4:00 pm—6:00 pm

Course Description:
A comprehensive hands-on study of the post-production sound workflow in the
digital cinema production process, with emphasis on sound editing, sound design
and multitrack mixing. The course is project based.

Course Objectives:
• To appreciate sound as creative element for storytelling in motion pictures
• To understand procedures, techniques, and standard practices in motion picture post production sound.
• To acquire practical knowledge and hands-on experience of motion picture post production sound workflow

Student Learning Outcomes:
The Academy for Creative Media embraces Student Learning Outcomes in the
areas of Critical Thinking, Writing, History & Aesthetics, Professional Skills & Creativity, and Ethics & Responsibility.

ACM 374 will emphasize, and evaluate each student on Student Learning Outcomes in Professional Skills & Creativity. At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

• Create a visual narrative through application of appropriate principles and production skills.
• Understand the essential collaborative nature of creative productions by working as a team member.

**Recommended Reading:**

Although there are NO Required Texts for this class, these textbooks are recommended:


**Grading and Student Evaluation:**

Students will earn up to 100 points throughout the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Assignment 1A</th>
<th>Assignment 1B</th>
<th>Assignment 2</th>
<th>Assignment 3</th>
<th>Exam</th>
<th>Professionalism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Foley Recording</td>
<td>ADR Recording</td>
<td>FCP Dialogue/Effects/Music Editing</td>
<td>STP Final Surround Mix</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
<td>Participation, Presentation and Attendance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-96</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>3.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79</td>
<td>2.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-75</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-65</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Grade Inquiries:
Email the instructor any time during the semester to inquire about your existing/available grades. Please specify your name, course/section, and student ID number for verification purposes.

Classroom Policies:

- ATTENDANCE is mandatory. Active class/group participation is expected.
  - Tardiness/Eary Leave of more than 1/3 of daily class hours will result in the deduction of 0.5 point from total points earned.
  - Tardiness/Eary Leave of more than 2/3 of daily class hours will result in a 1 point deduction.
  - Unexcused Absence will result in the deduction of 2 points.
  - Acknowledged Absence may be granted but requires convincing reasons and supporting evidences for pre-approval. Each acknowledged absence will result in a 0.5 point deduction.
  - Excused Absence (medical emergency, jury-summoned or military duty, bereavement): to avoid any grade deductions, supporting evidence must be presented before or immediately following the absence.

- ASSIGNMENTS submitted after due deadlines will have a grade penalty assessed and will be screened at the instructor’s discretion.

- Being on time is part of the craft of producing films and you are encouraged to work on your organization skills if you have trouble meeting deadlines.

- If you have not completed your project on the due date, it is still better in terms of grading, that you show up for class without your project and participate in your peer’s screenings and feedback, than to not show up at all.

- No make-up exams/quizzes will be given, except for excused absence situations.

- Personal entertainment and communication devices are to be turned off in class. Music listening, web-browsing, cell phone use, text-message, tweeting, social-networking & e-mail activities are prohibited in class, unless authorized by instructor under special circumstances. Violations will affect your “professionalism” grades.

Hardware and Software Requirements

This course is taught in a regular classroom, not a computer lab. You are required to provide your own Mac laptop & software according to the policy posted at

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
http://acm.hawaii.edu/computer/index.shtml

The required software for this course is the current version of Final Cut Studio (Final Cut Pro and Soundtrack Pro).

The ACM curriculum is based on Macintosh hardware and software. Technical support and instruction for other platforms will not be provided.

Since the laptop and software is required, you can ask the Financial Aid office to include it in your “cost of attendance.” Contact financial aid at http://www.hawaii.edu/fas/

You must supply your own External FireWire drive for media playback, storage and backup. USB Flash drives, thumb drives, iPods and many bus-powered “slim” portable drives, while okay for storage and backup purposes, are usually too slow for instant video playback and editing. Your FireWire drive should be 7200 rpm with at least 200 gigabites of storage capability. Considering the demanding speed and storage requirement for High Definition media, if your budget allows, it is recommended that your hard drive is at least 500GB and has multiple interface including FireWire 800.

You are responsible to bring your own headphones, cables and power supplies. You’re also required to provide your own media and/or archive materials such as CD-R, DVD-R and flash thumb drives.

**Weekly Schedule:** (subject to revision)

**Week 01 (01/10)**
- Intro to course requirements and general overview
- Voice casting
- Two Groups formed: Foley Group & ADR Group

**Week 02 (01/17)**
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (class will not meet)

**Week 03 (01/24)**
- Sound Recording Equipment Workshop

**Week 05 (01/31)**
- Intro to Sound Recording:
  - Mic placement
  - Angle vs Distance
  - Signal to Noise Ratio
- ADR & Foley Process Overview
• Foley/Sound Effects
• **Assignment 1A: Foley Group** Pre-production Planning Presentations

**Week 04 (02/07)**

• **Assignment 1A: Foley Group** Recording (all students participate, Foley Group responsible for equipments/props)

**Week 06 (02/14)**

• Editing Foley in Final Cut Pro
• **Assignment 1A Due:** Foley Group distribute recorded Foley media (DV-NTSC or ProRes422-HQ MOV files) to **all** students (selected/good takes only, no huge-lengthy multi-take files, labeled and organized, on data-DVDs)
• Screening select Foley footage from both groups.
• Sound Theories
• **Assignment 1B: ADR Group** Pre-production Planning Presentations

**Week 07 (02/21)**

• President’s Day (class will not meet)

**Week 08 (02/28)**

• Assignment 1B: ADR Group Recording (all students participate, ADR Group responsible for equipments & talent casting)

**Week 09 (03/07)**

• Editing ADR in Final Cut Pro
• **Assignment 1B Due:** ADR Group: distribute recorded ADR media (DV-NTSC or ProRes422-HQ MOV files) to **all** students (selected/good takes only, no huge-lengthy multi-take files, labeled and organized, on data DVDs)
• Screening select ADR footage from both groups.
• Sound Theories (cont’d.)
• Assignment 2 (ADR, Foley and Music editing in FCP) requirements review & lab

**Week 10 (03/14)**

• **Midterm Exam**
• Media Management
• Assignment 2 (ADR, Foley and Music edited in FCP) Q&A and/or lab

**Week 11 (03/21)**

**SPRING RECESS**

**Week 12 (03/28)**

• **Assignment 2** (ADR, Foley and Music edited in FCP) **DUE** at beginning of class
• Screening Assignment 2

**Week 13 (04/04)**

• Soundtrack Pro overview
• Editing dialogue, sound effects and music in Soundtrack Pro
• Noise Reduction and Ambient Noise Print
• Normalize, Equalize and Spotting.
• Pitch Shift and Space Designer
• Pick-Up Recording (ADR and/or Foley) planning presentation

Week 14 (04/11)
• Pick-Up Recording (ADR and/or Foley) and/or Editing Lab

Week 15 (04/18)
• Surround Sound Mixing
• Sends and Buses
• Submixes
• Automation using Latch, Touch and Read

Week 16 (04/25)
• Assignment 3 (Final Soundtrack Pro Mix) DUE at beginning of class
• Screening Assignment 3

Week 17 (05/02)
• Course Review

Week 18 (05/09): Final Exams Week (Class will not meet: No Final Exam)

Copyright Guidelines:
All assignment materials are provided and used only for the purpose of education and learning during this particular course. Do not use course materials and completed assignment for any other purposes, whether personal, for-profit or non-profit. None of the course materials/completed assignment may be included in any personal reels or competition/festival submissions. Absolutely no uploading, showcasing, podcasting, file exchange of any of the course materials via the internet, radio, broadcast or any form of public distribution. Sharing of the raw or edited course material to any person not enrolled in this course is prohibited. Any violation will result in severe grade reduction. For Copyright and Fair Use guidelines, visit: http://library.manoa.hawaii.edu/about/copyright/fairuse.htm. For ACM Copyright Policies, visit: www.hawaii.edu/acm/studres/releases.shtml

Privacy Guidelines:
To provide the class an opportunity to offer non-biased open critiques during the screenings of your works, and to provide anonymity for privacy protection, for certain assignments, exams and/or quizzes, you are required to use an alias (nickname) that will not easily suggest or reveal your real identity. The instructor
may provide further guidelines in assigning your alias, but in principal, your alias must be appropriate and not offend anyone in the class. It is your responsibility not to discuss and/or reveal your alias to anybody in any way. If your alias is somehow revealed, you may contact the instructor any time during the semester to change your alias.

KOKUA:  
If you have a documented disability that may require accommodation, please inform the instructor privately before the end of the 2nd class session, or the instructor may not have time to make adjustments in the course to accommodate. The instructor would be happy to work with you and the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) to ensure reasonable accommodations in the course. KOKUA can be reached at (808) 956-7511 or (808) 956-7612 (voice/text) in room 013 of the Queen Lili'uokalani Center for Student Services.

Policy on Incompletes:  
Under rare circumstances will the instructor assign an incomplete. You will have to meet ALL of the following conditions:
• You have completed the bulk (70% plus) of course assignments.
• You have completed the mid-term exam and all quizzes.
• You are passing the class.

The instructor can make no exceptions to this policy even if it affects your financial aid. Only if you have emergency and/or long term life altering situations will your request be considered.