

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

ATEC 2385-001 Introduction to Sound Design  
Thursdays 11:30 am to 02:15 pm.  
Location ATEC 1.103 Sound Lab

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### **Professor Contact Information**

FRANK DUFOUR  
Tel: 972 883 41 29  
[Frank.dufour@utdallas.edu](mailto:Frank.dufour@utdallas.edu)  
Office HRA 1614  
Office hours:  
Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am to 12:00 and on demand

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### **Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions**

*None*

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### **Course Description**

General objectives of the class:

This class, as an introduction to sound design will present the basic aspects of the technique, industry, and aesthetic of sound design.

### **Class Methodology**

The class will use:

Lectures, debates, presentations, exercises, and two individual projects.

Students will perform short individual projects pertinent to each one of the specific domains of application of sound design: film, game, interactive application.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

#### **Knowledge:**

Students will understand:

- The principles of mechanics and acoustics necessary to understand, the generation, propagation, and perception of sound.
- The various specialties of sound design as they are used in the media industry and the necessary skills and knowledge necessary to the performance of these professions.

Students will acquire a basic knowledge on music consisting at least in some historical milestones.

**Design capacities:**

Students will be able to identify and describe the sonic elements necessary for the soundtrack of: animation movies, games, and interactive computer based applications.  
They will understand the importance of sound design in various domains.  
They will be able to understand the relation between these sonic elements and the visual aspects of the application.

**Practical and technical skills:**

Students will be able to:

- Use a digital recording equipment to record various types of sounds including: voices, ambiences, musical instruments
- Edit, process, and manipulate digital sounds
- Synchronize digital sounds to a movie

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

none

**Suggested Course Materials**

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## Assignments & Academic Calendar

(Topics, Reading Assignments, Due Dates, Exam Dates)

August 21	First day of class. Introduction.
August 28	Acoustics and mechanics: the characteristics of sound.
September 4	Applications of sound design and of sound engineering: film industry, television, games, interactive multimedia applications, music industry, artistic expressions, architecture, theater and live performance... Music Milestones 1
September 11	Sounds for films 1: the components of the sound track of a film, dialogues, music, effects, and ambiances. Music Milestones 2
September 18	Sounds for films 2: review and analysis of examples.
September 25	Sound for film project. Project Lab 1
October 2	Project Lab 2
October 9	Midterm Grades due on October 15
October 16	Sounds for games 1: the components of the sound set of a game.
October 23	Sounds for games 2: review and analysis of examples.
October 30	Sounds for games project. Project Lab 3
November 6	Music industry: recording, editing and processing music. Sounds for games project. Project Lab 4
November 13	Digital music: midi format and tools. Sounds for games project. Project Lab 5
November 20	Music project: recoding, editing, and processing of one musical performance or producing digital music.
November 27	Thanks Giving No class
December 4	Last day of class, review of the projects.

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## Grading Policy

Attendance, Participation to the class, and	Project 1	Project 2
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exercises		
50	25	25

100 – 90 A  
89 – 80 B  
79 – 70 C  
69 – 60 D  
59 - 0 F

The evaluation of the assignments and of the project is based on a list of criteria that will be presented, discussed, and explained during the class.

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## Course & Instructor Policies

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### Field Trip Policies

#### Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

*Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address [http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel\\_Risk\\_Activities.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm). Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.*

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## Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

## **Academic Integrity**

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

## **Email Use**

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

## **Withdrawal from Class**

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

## **Student Grievance Procedures**

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the

grievance originates (hereafter called “the respondent”). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent’s School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean’s decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

### **Incomplete Grade Policy**

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester’s end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

### **Disability Services**

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:  
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22  
PO Box 830688  
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688  
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student’s responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

### **Religious Holy Days**

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

***These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.***