THEA 3303-001: Sound Design & Technology

Class: T/R 9:30am- 10:50am

Fine Arts Rm. 419, Spring 2013

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Course Description:

A study of the fundamentals of sound design and technology as related to the theatrical production environment. The study of basic sound design tools and the practical application of these tools through project work.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- The student will become familiar with and implement the technical aspects of theatrical sound design: instrumentation, basic sound theory, signal processing, input and output systems.
- The student will learn and utilize the basic aspects of theatrical sound design: the design elements, the use of different equipment to help realize a design concept, and the design process.
- The student will evaluate design work in the context of a production and in class exercises.
- The student will become familiar with sound editing software and paperwork.

Required Text:

Sound and Music for the Theatre by Deena Kaye & James LeBrecht (3rd Ed.)
   ISBN#9780240810119
S.M.A.R.T. Guide to Mixers, Signal Processors, Microphones, and More by Bill Gibson
   ISBN#1592006949

Required Plays for Class:

The Woman in Black (Acting Addition) adapted by Stephen Mallatratt, Samuel French, 1989
   ISBN# 0573040192
Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches by Tony Kushner, TCG, 1993
   ISBN#1559360615

Required Materials:

A USB storage drive is recommended for audio and file transport.

Suggested Resources:

UTA Library or any public library (most have music collections and resources)
Architecture & Fine Arts Library (for music and sound effect cds)
UTA Theatre Arts Library (for sound effect dvds)
www.freesound.org (for free sound effects)
www.soundsnap.com (partially free and legal download site)
www.sounddogs.com (pay site for sound downloads)
www.sound-effects-library.com (pay site for sound downloads)
www.freeplaymusic.com (free music site)
www.amazon.com (for affordable and usable music downloads)
www.archive.org (archives older recordings)
www.synaudcon.com (offers online tutorials and audio resources)

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

The student's final grade will be determined according to the following:

5%	Class Performance	The student's participation in class discussions; as well as daily preparation for the course.
40%	Examinations	2 Exams (worth 20% each) covering material from class lectures and the required texts.
55%	Projects	4 assigned design projects (project 1-3 worth 10% each, 4th project worth 15%) and a paperwork project (work 10%)

Every student is required to attend the Theatre Arts Departments spring productions in order to participate in class discussions. There are three productions: *Fiddler on the Roof* (opens 2/27), *Goodnight Desdemona, Good Morning Juliet* (opens 4/4), and MavPlays (opens 4/25).

Attendance:

It is the student's responsibility to attend classes. Greater than three unexcused absences and/or excessive tardiness will negatively affect the student's final grade; the student can lose up to half a grade letter for every unexcused absence above 3. Arriving to class 10 minutes or later will count as an absence. Makeup papers or projects will not be permitted for unapproved absences. Any student attending a conference or school related activity that requires the student to miss class, is required to inform the instructor as soon as possible in order for the absence to be excused.

Theatre Arts Attendance/Production Duty Policy:

Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, and/or stage management positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair.

Conferences/Auditions:
Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and auditions. However, students are expected to complete assigned coursework in a timely manner and to notify instructors prior to their absence. Such notification must be in writing. At the discretion of each instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, students are advised to consult with their instructors prior to engaging in such activities.

Drop Policy:
Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

Americans with Disabilities Act:
The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity:
All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Student Support Services Available:
UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Electronic Communication:
UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php.

Student Feedback Survey:
At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

Final Review Week:
A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. Classes are held as scheduled during this week and lectures and presentations may be given.

Blackboard:
A copy of this syllabus and additional course related material can be found under this course at the www.uta.edu/blackboard website.

Course Outline

1/15 Tu	Class Introduction	
1/17 Th	Nature of Sound (Gibson Ch. 1)	
1/22 Tu	Nature of Sound and the Sound System (Gibson Ch. 1)	
1/24 Th	Introduction to ProTools	
1/29 Tu	Foundation of Sound Design (LeBrecht Ch. 2 & 3)	
1/31 Th	Input and Recording Devices (Gibson Ch. 5)	
2/5 Tu	Input and Recording Devices (Gibson Ch. 5)	
2/7 Th	**Present Project 1- Spot Cue**	
2/12 Tu	ProTools cont. (recording and editing)	
2/14 Th	Design Preparation and Process (LeBrecht Ch.4, 5 & 7)	
2/19 Tu	Signal Processing (Gibson Ch. 6 & 7)	
2/21 Th	Signal Processing (Gibson Ch. 6 & 7)	
2/26 Tu	**Present Project 2- Recording & Environmental**	(*Fiddler* Opens 2/27)
2/28 Th	More ProTools (signal processors)	
3/5 Tu	Review for Exam 1 (class discussion of *Fiddler*)	
3/7 Th	**Exam 1**	
3/12 Tu	**No Class**	**Spring Break**
3/14 Th	**No Class**	**Spring Break**
3/19 Tu	Paperwork (LeBrecht Ch.5)	USITT Conference
3/21 Th	Mixing (Gibson Ch. 3 & 4)	USITT Conference
3/26 Tu	Mixing (Gibson Ch. 3 & 4)	
3/28 Th	**Present Project 3-Narrative Sequence**	
4/2 Tu	Connectors and Cables	
4/4 Th	Speakers and Amplifiers	(*Desdemona* Opens 4/4)
4/9 Tu	Speakers and Amplifiers	
4/11 Th	System Patching & Running the Show (LeBrecht Ch.10)	
4/16 Tu	MIDI, Show Control, and Time Code **Paperwork Project Due**	
4/18 Th	**No Class**	**UIL**
4/23 Tu	Related Sound Systems	
4/25 Th	TBA	(**MavPlays Opens 4/25**)
4/30 Tu	**Present Project 4- Mood & Dramatic Emphasis**	Final Review Week
5/2 Th	Exam 2 Review (Class discussion of *Desdemona & MavPlays)*	Final Review Week
5/9 Th	**Final- Exam 2**	8am-10:30am

* Class discussion topics may change at the instructor's discretion.

Sound Design Projects Guidelines and Deadlines

Sound Design Projects:

- ❖ **Project 1-**   Spot Cues (Student's choice of play)   (Due Feb. 7th)
- ❖ **Project 2-**   Recording & Environmental (*Woman in Black*)   (Due Feb 26th)
- ❖ **Project 3-**   Narrative Sequence (*Woman in Black*)   (Due March 28th)
- ❖ **Project 4-**   Mood and Dramatic Emphasize (*Angels in America*)   (Due April 30th)

Detailed descriptions and requirements for all sound projects will be handed out in advance of each project's due date. Select projects from each assignment will be presented in class, on the due date and will be accompanied by a 1-2 page paper detailing the choices that were made and the resources that were used.

All design projects will be done utilizing the program ProTools. The Theatre Arts Department has this program available to you in Rm. 419 of the Fine Arts Building. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the room, sign up early to make sure you have adequate time to finish you work. ProTools is also available in some of the Fine Arts Building's computer labs. If a student chooses to use one of these computers to do their work, then the student is responsible for transferring that work to the computer located in room 419 prior to the project's due date.

Sound Paperwork Project: (Due April 16th)

Students will create a set of sound paperwork for an assigned production and will be accompanied by a 1-2 page paper detailing the choices that were made and the resources that were used. Project will be turned into blackboard under the assignments name. A detailed description and requirements for the paperwork project will be handed out in advance of the project's due date.