

THEA 3303-001: Sound Design

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

Science Hall Rm. 315 (FA 264), Fall 2013

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Course Description:

The study of the fundamentals of sound design 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 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.
- Students will learn and, through class projects, create the different forms of sound cues in theatrical sound design.
- 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

Recommended Text:

The Sound of the Theatre by David Collison
ISBN#0955703514

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.
Headphones using a 1/4" phone connector.
ProTools First (recommended)

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:

10%	Class Performance	The student’s participation in class discussions; as well as daily preparation for the course.
80%	Design Projects	5 assigned design projects (project 1 worth 10%, projects 2 & 3 worth 15% each, 4 th & 5 th projects worth 20%)
10%	Paperwork Project	The creation of a complete set of sound design paperwork.

Every student is required to attend the Theatre Arts Departments spring productions in order to participate in class discussions. There are two productions: *The Theory of Relativity* (opens 10/7) and *The Man Who Came to Dinner* (opens 11/18). All design projects will need to be completed using the software program ProTools. The student can use the ProTools computer in FA264, NanoFab lab, FA computer lab 404 (yellow lab), and/or a personal version of the software.

Attendance:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance.

As the instructor of this section, I have established the following attendance policy: 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, design, 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://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law "Title IX" such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses 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.

UT Arlington faculty members 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.

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 an online 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 syllabus*. 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. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities.

Student Support Services: 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.

Writing Center : The Writing Center, 411 Central Library, offers individual 40 minute sessions to review assignments, *Quick Hits* (5-10 minute quick answers to questions), and workshops on grammar and specific writing projects. Visit <https://uta.mywconline.com/> to register and make appointments. For hours, information about the writing workshops we offer, scheduling a classroom visit, and descriptions of the services we offer undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members, please visit our website at www.uta.edu/owl/.

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

8/27 Th	Class Introduction	
9/1 Tu	Foundation of Sound Design (LeBrecht Ch. 2 & 3)	
9/3 Th	Introduction to ProTools	
9/8 Tu	Research & Resources (LeBrecht Ch. 4)	
9/10 Th	Design Preparation and Process (LeBrecht Ch. 5 & 7)	
9/15 Tu	Present Project 1- Spot Cue	
9/17 Th	ProTools cont. (recording and editing)	
9/22 Tu	The Recording Process (LeBrecht Ch. 8)	
9/24 Th	The Rehearsal Process (LeBrecht Ch. 9)	
9/29 Tu	Techniques and Approaches (LeBrecht Ch. 11)	
10/1 Th	Present Project 2- Foley work	
10/6 Tu	Project 2 presentations cont.	
10/8 Th	More ProTools (signal processors)	<i>(The Theory of Relativity Opens 10/7)</i>
10/13 Tu	Class discussion on <i>The Theory of Relativity</i>	
10/15 Th	Sound Reinforcement	
10/20 Tu	Sound Reinforcement cont.	
10/22 Th	Sound Reinforcement cont.	
10/27 Tu	Present Project 3- Environmental	
10/29 Th	Project 3 presentations cont.	
11/3 Tu	The Speaker Plot & paperwork cont.	
11/5 Th	Running the Show (LeBrecht Ch. 10)	
11/10 Tu	Playback systems	
11/12 Th	Playback systems cont.	
11/17 Tu	Present Project 4- Narrative Sequence	
11/19 Th	Present Project 4 cont.	<i>(The Man Who Came Dinner Opens 11/18)</i>
11/24 Tu	Class discussion on <i>The Man Who Came to Dinner</i>	
11/26 Th	No Class	Thanksgiving
12/1 Tu	Paperwork Project Due	
12/3 Th	Sound Design as a Profession (LeBrecht Ch. 6)	
12/8 Tu	TBA	
12/17 Th	Final	8am-10:30am

* Class discussion topics and project due dates may change at the instructor's discretion. Listed chapters should be read in advance of class.

Sound Design Projects Guidelines and Deadlines

Sound Design Projects:

- ❖ **Project 1-** Spot Cues (ProTools Intro) (Due Sept. 15th)
- ❖ **Project 2-** Foley Project (provided video) (Due Oct. 1st)
- ❖ **Project 3-** Environmental (*Woman in Black*) (Due Oct. 27rd)
- ❖ **Project 4-** Narrative Sequence (*Image Soundscape*) (Due Nov. 17th)
- ❖ **Project 5-** Mood and Dramatic Emphasize (*Angels in America*) (Due Dec. 17th)

Detailed descriptions and requirements for all sound design projects will be handed out in advance of each project's due date. The projects from each assignment will be presented in class (time permitting), 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. A class discussion and critique will accompany the class presentations of design projects.

All design projects must be done utilizing the program ProTools. The Theatre Arts Department has this program available to you in Rm. 264 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 your work. ProTools is also available in some of the Fine Arts Building's computer labs and in the NanoFab lab. 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 264 prior to the project's due date.

Sound Paperwork Project:

(Due Dec. 1st)

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.