

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Spring 2-1-2007

DRAM 461.01: Theatre Sound II

Malcolm Lowe

University of Montana, Missoula

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Lowe, Malcolm, "DRAM 461.01: Theatre Sound II" (2007). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11668.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/11668>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Dram 461:Theater Sound II Spring 2007 3 Credits

Instructor	Malcolm Lowe	Phone	406-549-3623 or 406-880-6414
Office/Class	PART 036 T/Th 11:10 – 12:30	E-mail	malcolmlowe@msn.com
Office Hours	10:00 – 11:00 Th or by appointment	Sound Lab Assistant	Katie Hanson 406-546-7676 Sound Shop

Required Texts:

The Sound Reinforcement Handbook by Gary Davis and Ralph Jones. Hal Leonard Publishing 1989.

It should be clearly understood that the suggested text for this class will serve only as a resource. While much of the lecture material has its parallels in the text, the sequence of the class does not match the book. In addition, the terminology and approach of the professor may differ from the material presented in the text. These factors make class attendance essential if the student wishes to succeed in this class.

Description:

This course will build upon the fundamentals of sound design presented in Drama 361. Reinforcement of Musical Theater productions will be given considerable focus. The course will explore in more detail the technical operation and diagnosis of sound equipment, particularly microphones, amplifiers, speakers, and cabling. The Drama Department production of *Urinetown* will provide opportunities for hands on experience in preparing for and operating live musicals.

Goals:

The purpose of this course is to bring the student to a level of knowledge in sound design such that he/she will be confident to design for any Drama Department production.

The student should finish the course with an understanding of the basic concepts of acoustics and a technical understanding of audio equipment. They should feel confident in setting up and running a theater production whether it is live reinforcement or recorded material. They should be adept with the organizational tools and communication skills required for effective collaboration.

Projects and Requirements:

Project #1– Assemble 4 different types of audio cable using soldering techniques taught in class. Cables must have clean, durable solder joints and exhibit correct continuity.

Due Feb 14. 50 points.

Project/Paper #2 – A Research paper 1000-1500 words. This project offers some flexibility and will be defined individually after consultations with the instructor. Each student will design a project to address particular goals or areas of interest in the field of audio. Due March 15. 100 points.

Project/Presentation #3 Student will be assigned a focused topic to research and present to the class. Presentations will be judged on clarity, use of supporting materials, and demonstrations. Due by April 26. 100 points

Critiques -- Critiques should contain 300-500 words. They should discuss the role of sound in the production, including analysis of how sound served the overall concept, technical challenges, designer vs. operator influence, specific examples should be given to support arguments as to the overall effectiveness of the design. No discussion of plot, character, or actors' performances should be included. Each critique is worth 30 points.

Examination #1 – This test will cover material presented in the text and in class. It will focus primarily on terms and definitions.

Examination #2 – This test will cover terms, definitions, equipment functions, processes, and concepts presented throughout the term.

Attendance/Daily reading – Students will be expected to come to every class. They are expected to have read assigned texts and participate in discussions. Each day participating is 10 points.

Cell phones – If a student's cell phone rings in class they will be docked 5 attendance points; If they answer it they will be asked to remove themselves from the class and will receive no points for attendance.

Writing ability – All written assignments will be graded on correct use of academic English as well as content.

Late projects/papers – Assignments turned in late will lose 5% of their point value for each class day missed. No projects or papers will be accepted after the day of the final.

Extra Credit – Extra credit is encouraged by the professor. In small studio courses such as this, extra credit projects are ideal avenues for students to pursue unique areas of interest. Students must receive the instructor's approval before starting a project that is to be used for extra credit.

Grades will be A to F derived from percentages of total points.

Grading	Points	Percent	Grade
Attendance	280	90-100%	A
		80-89%	B
2 Critiques@30 ea	60	70-79%	C
Examination #1	100	60-69%	D
Examination #2	100	59% and below	F
Project #1	50		
Project #2	100		
<u>Project #3</u>	<u>100</u>		
Total Points	790		

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321>.

Drama/Dance Policy

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html>.