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THTR 365.01: Theatre Sound I

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COURSE SYLLABUS
THTR 365- FALL 2014
THEATRE SOUND I-3 CR.

CLASS SESSIONS: TUESDAY, THURSDAY - 11:10 TO 12:30
PAR/T RM. 036

PROFESSORS:

Mark Dean	Zach Hamersley	Timothy McHenry
PAR/TV, Rm 193.	PAR/TV, Rm 131	EL, Rm 157
(406) 243-2879	(406) 241-9629	(406) 243-4461

Office Hours; 1:00pm to 2:30pm on Tuesday and Thursday except when work on University productions prohibits these times. Please feel free to make appointments or stop by at other times.

TEXTS:

Sound Reinforcement Handbook, Davis & Jones
Execution of Justice, Emily Mann

Digital Performer & Qlab video tutorials

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

GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the art of Sound Design. Students will be asked to analyze sound for its emotional impact, determine the qualities of sound which impart these effects, and discover how these ideas can be enlarged upon and transferred to the stage.

The class will discuss the role of sound in theatrical productions, how a script is analyzed for audio needs, and the creation and control of audio in production situations. In addition to the lecture material, the class will undertake design projects, and critique two of the School's Fall 2014 productions.

The work for this class is designed to sequentially develop the student's understanding and skills. Therefore it is extremely important that all students complete the assignments according to the class schedule.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES (CONT):

Students should:

- Understand and use the course objectives of THTR 103, and THTR 202
- Analyze a script or other works of art for emotion, focus, and time
- Develop an individual design process
- Understand and use of the principals of acoustics and psycho-acoustics
- Understand and use accepted recording techniques and audio equipment (analogue and digital recorders, mixers, processors, microphones, amplifiers, and speakers)

GRADING:

Final grades for this course will be based on the following

This is rooted in the objectives stated above. The measurement or assessment of the students' success in meeting these objectives is determined at the end of a semester in their ability to design quality productions. And in so doing they must demonstrate:

- Student's ability to meet all deadlines and requirements for the course
- Preparation for class as evidenced by knowledge gained from previous assignments, assigned readings, organization of work, and timely execution of sound projects
- Increased skill in sound design: recording technique, equipment understanding, electricity, and script analysis
- Student's ability to approach work with increased independence, efficiency, and creative thinking.

Note: The highest level of success is based on their ability to demonstrate through process and product a significant level of understanding of all theories and an ability to utilize them effectively, appropriately, and aesthetically in the creation of sound design projects.

GRADING (CONT):

9/23	Project I-Newspaper Article	75 points
10/2	Project II-"Execution" Cues	100
10/16	1st Examination	100
10/21	Critique - "Cyrano de Bergerac"	75
10/23	Project III-Environment	100
11/25	Project IV-"Execution" Plot	75
12/2	Critique-"A Christmas Carol"	75
12/4	2nd Examination	150
12/12 10:10-12:10	Project V-Final Project	150
	Attendance and Participation	100
	Total-----	1000 points

Since the completion of many of these projects is dependent upon the completion of the project which precede them, **projects turned in to the professor after the due date will not be accepted for grading.**

Extra credit is possible and encouraged by the professor, but the student must receive the instructor's permission before starting a project that is to be used for extra credit.

PROJECTS & REQUIREMENTS

Project I - Record 2-3 minutes of a newspaper/magazine article. Then cut and rearrange the recorded material to say something completely different. Final length of the project should be 59.5 seconds exactly. 75 pts

Project II - Make a list of sound effects and music cues for the play "Execution of Justice" this should include all background sounds, live effects (in any) and taped effects (if any), and all music. 100 pts

Project III - Record a space or an environment. We should be able to tell from the sound effects only where the sounds originated when they are played back. Final length of the project should be 60 - 90 seconds in length. This project can be recorded separately and then edited together, but should sound as if it were a single non-edited recording. 100 pts

Project IV - Draft a sound system layout for "Execution of Justice". This should include placement of all speakers and all microphones used for your production. 75 pts

PROJECTS & REQUIREMENTS (CONT):

Project V - A 4-track digital recording where a story is told and aural elements are used to enhance further and help establish the environment of the story. This project should include multi-track recording, editing, and a final mix down to a stereo signal. The final length of this project should be 120-180 seconds in length. 150 pts

Two Critiques - Each student will prepare typewritten criticisms of two of the productions during the Fall 2014 semester. The plays to be critiqued are "Cyrano de Bergerac", and "Christmas Carol." Each Critique should be 600 to 800 words in length and should discuss the role of the sound in the production, and how it supported the style and mood of the production. No discussion of plot or character should be included. 75 pts each

Examination #1 - This test will cover material presented in class and will focus primarily on terms and definitions. 100 pts

Examination #2 - This test will cover all material presented during the quarter and will focus primarily on processes, relationships, and comparisons. This exam will be given during the last regular class session. 150 pts

SCHOOL OF THEATRE & DANCE POLICIES

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The [Student Handbook](http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/default.php) is available online at "http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/default.php"

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.

Due to safety considerations, at no point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should non-enrolled persons be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will affect negatively a student's grade.

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 disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php). The policy is available at the following web address "http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php"

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult the [Disability Services for Students](http://life.umt.edu/dss) website. "http://life.umt.edu/dss"

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES-THTR 365-THEATRE SOUND I-FALL 2014

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS TOPIC</u>	<u>STUDENT SHOULD PREPARE</u>
8/26	Introduction	
8/28	Acoustics	
9/2	Mixing Consoles	
9/6	Mixing Consoles	
9/9	Mixing Consoles (lab)	
9/11	Audio Computer Software	
9/16	Audio Computer Software	
9/18	Audio Computer Software	
9/23	Presentation of Project I	Project I - Newspaper Article
9/25	Loudspeakers and Input Devices	
9/30	Loudspeakers and Input Devices	
10/2	Presentation of Project II	Project II - Cues for "Execution of Justice"
10/7	Electricity and Amplification	
10/9	Signal Processing and Effects	
10/14	Review for 1st Examination	
10/16	1st Examination	1st Examination
10/21	Critique of "Cyrano de Beragerac"	
10/23	Presentation of Project III	Project III - "Environment"
10/28	Presentation of Project III	Project III - "Environment"
10/30	Design Process, Script Analysis	
11/4	Holiday-ELECTION DAY	
11/6	Audio and Tracking Paperwork	
11/11	Holiday-VETERANS DAY	
11/13	Audio and Tracking Paperwork	
11/18	Digital Consoles	
11/20	Digital Consoles	
11/25	Presentation of Project IV	Project IV - Sound Plot - "Execution of Justice"
11/27	Holiday - Thanksgiving	
12/2	Review of 2nd Examination	Critique "A Christmas Carol"
12/4	2nd Examination	2nd Examination
12/12	Presentation of Project V- 10:10am to 12:10am	