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Fall 9-1-2000

### DRAM 361.01: Theatre Sound I

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COURSE SYLLABUS  
DRAM 361- FALL 2000  
THEATRE SOUND I

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

**PROFESSOR :** Mark A. Dean

Rm. 193, PAR/T Bldg., 243-2879

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.

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

It should be clearly understood that the assigned 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 differ from the material presented in the text. These factors make class attendance essential if the student wishes to succeed in this class.

**GOALS AND 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 to be analyzed for audio needs, and the creation and control of audio in production situations. In addition to the lecture material that will be covered, the class will undertake design projects, and critique two of the departmental productions during the semester.

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

## GRADING (cont):

10/2	Project I-Newspaper Article	75 points
10/11	Project II-"Execution" Cues	100
10/18	1st Examination	100
10/23	Critique - "... Ballyhoo"	75
10/30	Project III-Environment	100
11/13	Critique - "The Heiress"	75
11/15	Project IV-"Execution" Plot	75
12/13	2nd Examination	150
12/18	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, any project not handed in on the date scheduled will be grade down 5% of its maximum value for every class session that it is late

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 AND REQUIREMENTS

**Project I** - Record 2-3 minutes of a newspaper or magazine article. Then cut and rearrange the recorded material to say something completely different. Final length of the project should be 60 - 90 seconds. 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 AND REQUIREMENT: continued**

- Project V** - A 4-track recording where a story is told or an idea is conveyed. 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 2000 semester. The plays to be critiqued are "The Last Night in Ballyhoo", and "The Heiress." Each Critique should be 300 to 500 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

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF CLASSES - DRAM 361 - THEATRE SOUND I - FALL 2000

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CLASS TOPIC</u>	<u>STUDENT SHOULD PREPARE</u>
9/6	Introduction	
9/11	Acoustics	
9/13	Design Process, Script Analysis	
9/18	Mixing Consoles	
9/20	Mixing Consoles (lab)	
9/25	Magnetic Tape Recording	
9/27	Magnetic Tape Recording (lab)	
10/2	Presentation of Project I	Project I - Newspaper Article
10/4	Presentation of Project I	Project I - Newspaper Article
10/9	Loudspeakers and Input Devices	
10/11	Presentation Of Project II	Project II - Cues for "Execution of Justice"
10/16	Review for 1st Examination	
10/18	1st Examination	1st Examination
10/23	Critique of "The Last Night in Ballyhoo"	
10/25	Electricity and Amplification	
10/30	Presentation of Project III	Project III - "Environment"
11/1	Presentation of Project III	Project III - "Environment"
11/6	In Class Drafting (PART 131)	Drafting Equipment
11/8	In Class Drafting (PART 131)	Drafting Equipment
11/13	Critique of "The Heiress"	
11/15	Presentation of Project IV	Project IV - Sound Plot - "Execution of Justice"
11/20	Presentation of Project IV	Project IV - Sound Plot - "Execution of Justice"
11/22	<b>Holiday - Thanksgiving</b>	
11/27	Signal Processing and Effects	
11/29	Signal Processing and Effects	
12/4	History of Recorded Sound	
12/6	History of Recorded Sound	
12/11	Review of 2nd Examination	
12/13	2nd Examination	2nd Examination
12/18	Presentation of Project V- 8:00am to 10:00am	