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THEA 497, Sound Design

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2022

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Cade M. Sikora
Office Location: PAC 103
Office Hours: By appointment
Office Phone: 903.886.5338
Office Fax: Who faxes anymore?
University Email Address: Cade.Sikora@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: email
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

The regular meeting/lecture portion of this course takes place MWF 10:00-10:50.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Materials Required

Headphones (preferably closed-back)
Flash drive

Textbook Required

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Optional Textbook

Audio Made Easy: (Or How to Be a Sound Engineer Without Really Trying)

Viewing Required

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Night Sky

Directed by Kylie Towne

Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce

October 11-16

Dragons Love Tacos

Directed by Dr. Carrie Klypchak

Produced in the Main Stage Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce

December 6-11

Software Required

Presentation-making software (IE PowerPoint, Prezi, etc)

QLab or ShowCueSystems (Available at the PAC)

Adobe Audition (Available at the PAC)

Course Description

Student Learning Outcomes At the completion of this course, students will have a fuller understanding of:

1. The sound design process [script analysis, research, conceptualizing, paperwork, execution]
2. Sound equipment, its functions, and its uses both in and out of the theatre, including sound boards, mixers, processors, amplifiers, speakers, cabling
3. Sound creation, sourcing, and editing techniques
4. Presentation skills and strategies
5. The typical production process and the members of the production team

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Skills

While minimal technical skills are required for this class, students will need to be able to use basic crafting tools like scissors and glue sticks, and intermediate tools such as Xacto knives.

Instructional Methods

Students will learn through lectures, readings, discussions, projects, and by attending theatre productions.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

.GRADING

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Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 90%-100%
- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 90- 100 Points
- B = 80- 89 Points
- C = 70- 79 Points
- D = 60- 69 Points
- F = 59 & > Points

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Lab Hours (6).....	10 pts
Reading Responses.....	5 pts
Production Responses (2 @ 5pts each).....	10 pts
Midterm Quiz.....	5 pts
Show Concept.....	10 pts
Initial Paperwork.....	10 pts
Foley Project.....	5 pts
Live Mixing Project.....	10 pts
Final Exam.....	10 pts
Canned Mixing Project.....	10 pts
<u>Final Show Paperwork and QLab file.....</u>	<u>15 pts</u>
Total	100pts

Assessments

1. Lab Hours: Students will complete a minimum of 6 lab hours in the semester. These lab hours will be spent performing sound equipment-related work for production. Lab hours must be scheduled with Cade in advance and availability may be limited, so it is encouraged that you work with Cade at your earliest mutual convenience to schedule lab hours. Positive assessment will be based on the successful completion of production tasks.
2. Reading Responses: students will write a 1-2 page response to the script, noting themes, scenic needs, specific challenges, etc. These topics will be discussed in class. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.
3. Following attendance of the department's productions, students will write a 1-2 page response to the productions, noting their impressions, how the design and

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technical elements supported the production with primary focus given to the sound design. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.

4. Midterm Quiz: Students will take a quiz focusing primarily on vocabulary and technical information about sound equipment, technical terms, etc. It will not be about the play script read for class, nor will it be about the productions we will see for class.
5. Show Concept / Initial Paperwork: After having read the script required for class, students will conceptualize and present a sound design concept and research to the class and create the appropriate initial paperwork.
6. Foley Project: Students will create a Foley sound effect based on parameters given in class.
7. Live Mixing: Students will live-mix (EQing) a sound effect or sound based on parameters given in class.
8. Final Exam: Students will exhibit their knowledge with a Final exam which will be one part paper exam (similar to the midterm) and 1 part live-demonstration be building working sound systems from available equipment.
9. Canned Mixing Project: Students will build and mix a canned sound effect or short bit of music in Adobe Audition.
10. Final Show Paperwork and File: Students will ethically source/create sound effects and music for their script, build a QLab show file, and produce complete paperwork (Sound Q! Sheet, sound plot, etc.) based on their Show Concept and Initial Paperwork.

Please note that more information and resources for these assignments and projects will be available online and/or in class when the assignments are given.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

To be successful in this course, students will need access to certain equipment, technology, and software. The minimum of this will be made available through the University, but students are welcome to investigate acquiring these things for themselves if they are interested in pursuing sound design further.

- QLab (for Mac) or ShowCueSystem (for Windows)
- Adobe Audition from the Adobe Cloud

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

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https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. Before contacting your Instructor, double check the syllabus and relevant course materials to be sure that your question has not already been answered. When contacting your Instructor, be clear and concise about your questions, observations, and or concerns.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please feel free to reach out to me. I am always available by email and will make every effort to respond within 24 hours of receiving your email.

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COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Work: I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit: Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a

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concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Date	Topic/Activity	Assignment Due
Mon Aug 29	Intro / Syllabus	
Wed Aug 31	What is Sound Design	
Fri Sept 2	The Science of Sound	
Mon Sept 5	No Class - Labor Day	
Wed Sept 7	Script Analysis for Sound	
Fri Sep 9	Intro to Sound Equipment	
Mon Sept 12	Script Discussion	Response Due
Wed Sept 14	Practical sounds / Foley	
Fri Sept 16	Practical sounds / Foley	
Mon Sept 19	Concept Presentations	Concept Due to D2L
Wed. Sept 21	Concept Presentations	
Fri Sept 23	Concept Presentations	
Mon Sept 26	Foley Presentations	Foley SFX

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Wed	Sept 28	Analog Sound Boards	
Fri	Sept 30	Digital Sound Boards	
Mon	Oct 3	Recording Sound	
Wed	Oct 5	Manipulating Sound / Audition	Meet in the Computer Lab
Fri	Oct 7	Manipulating Sound / Audition	Meet in the Computer Lab
Mon	Oct 10	Midterm	Midterm
	Oct 11	<i>Night Sky opens</i>	
Wed	Oct 12	Cueing Sound / QLab	Meet in the Computer Lab
Fri	Oct 14	Cueing Sound / QLab	Meet in the Computer Lab
Mon	Oct 17	Discuss Night Sky	
Wed	Oct 19	Discuss parameters for Mixing Projects / Paperwork	
Fri	Oct 21	Check-in on Show Design	Bring Show Design Paperwork
Mon	Oct 24	Paperwork Presentations	Paperwork Due to D2L
Wed	Oct 26	Paperwork Presentations	
Fri	Oct 28	Paperwork Presentations	
Mon	Oct 31	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Wed	Nov 2	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Fri	Nov 4	Check-in on Canned Mixing Project	
Mon	Nov 7	Canned Mix Presentations	Canned Mixing Project Due
Wed	Nov 9	Canned Mix Presentations	
Fri	Nov 11	Canned Mix Presentations	
Mon	Nov 14	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Wed	Nov 16	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Fri	Nov 18	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Mon	Nov 21	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Wed	Nov 23	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Fri	Nov 25	No Class – Thanksgiving Break	
Mon	Nov 28	Discuss parameters for Final Project	
Wed	Nov 30	Work Day (at Home or PAC)	
Fri	Dec 2	Final Check-in for Show Design	Bring Show Design Paperwork
Mon	Dec 5	Final Exam	Final Exam
	Dec 6	<i>Dragons Love Tacos opens</i>	
Wed	Dec 7	Lab Time / Set-Up for Final	This may not be during normal class time
Fri	Dec 9	Lab Time / Set-Up for Final	This may not be during normal class time
Mon	Dec 12	Final Exam from 10:30-12:30	Dragons Response Due to D2L Final Design Package Due to D2L and In Person Live Mixing Project Due

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