Syllabus

Sound Design

THR 4380.001, THR 4380L.020

Spring 2024

Instructor: CC Conn

Phone: 468-1031

Office: GFA 227

Office Hours: 1-3 M/W or by appointment

Please Note: The syllabus may change at the discretion of the instructor. Notification of changes will be made through Brightspace.

Important note about e-mail: I will always expect to contact you through your campus e-mail account. I, in return, am very accessible via e-mail. If you have personal issues with checking your school e-mail account, I suggest you solve them immediately. Communication via e-mail is a general life skill that you should all be learning to manage.

Objective: This course focuses on the process of sound design. The course will cover concept development, collaboration, implementation, and presentation of the sound design. This course also provides a basic understanding of and hands-on experience with sound equipment and sound systems. The objective is for students to have an overall understanding of the process of sound design with the opportunity to experience a show from the sound aspect. Also, the hands-on experience will teach students to work safely with the equipment in the field.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Bachelor of Arts:

A1: The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic.

A2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre history and a variety of theatrical styles.

A4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.
A5: The student will demonstrate intermediate to advanced competence in one or more theatre specialization(s).

**Bachelor of Arts, Teaching Certification**

E1: The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary for a theatre practitioner or scholar/critic.

E2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of theatre history and a variety of theatrical styles.

E4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.

E5: The student will be able to use an understanding of educational psychology and appropriate organizational skills to create a positive and disciplined learning environment for students of theatre.

**Bachelor of Fine Arts**

F1: The student will be able to analyze a script in ways that are necessary to a theatre practitioner.

F3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the component areas of theatrical creation, process, production, performance, and study, and their interrelationships.

F4: The student will be able to complete and document a major project as a stage manager, as a designer or technician, or as an actor or director, demonstrating advanced competence in the student's specialty.

F6: The student will be able to present an effective presentation appropriate to the student’s specialization.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Learning Outcomes:

1) Students will be able to demonstrate clear understanding of the process of sound design from script to sound plot. (PLO: A1, A2, A5, E1, E2, F1, F2, F4)

2) Students will demonstrate skill in communicating sound design concepts to directors and other theatre designers. (PLO: A1, A2, A4, A5, E1, E2, E4, F1, F2, F3, F4)

3) Students will master the paperwork, plotting, and organization needed to complete a sound design project. (PLO: A1, A2, A5, E1, E2, F1, F2, F4)

4) Students will explore various methods and styles of sound design. (PLO: A5, E5, F4, F5)

5) The student will execute and present one complete project which will demonstrate the students’ understanding of the course subject matter and how the full process of sound design is executed. (A1, A2, A4, A5, E1, E2, E4, E5, F3, F1, F2, F4, F6)

**Text:** *Sound and Music for the Theatre* (2nd Ed.) Kaye, Deena and James LeBrecht


**Supplies:**

Any type of sound editing software
**Technical Support**

If at any point during the course you experience technical difficulties in Brightspace, please let your instructor know immediately.

You will also need to contact the SFASU Brightspace Support Team by email (d2l@sfasu.edu) or phone (936.468.1919) for technical help.

**Course Content:**

**Projects (70%):**

1. Give emotional qualities with sound
2. Listening exercise
3. Give emotional qualities to a painting
4. Express an event with a sequence of sounds
5. Create an aural environment
6. Soliloquy with underscore sound-scape
7. Develop a cue list and create the 5 most prominent cues for *Krapp’s Last Tape*
8. Write a concept statement, cue list, and sound collage (that incorporates the 5 most important cues) for *You Can’t Take it With You*

**Final Project** – Write a concept statement, cue sheet, build a sound collage and 5 cues and draft a sound plot for *The Polaroid Stories*

**Quizzes (30%):**

1. Module #1
2. Module #3
3. Modules #4-9
4. Modules #10 and 11
5. Modules #12 and 13
6. All Modules

**Course Evaluations:** You will be required to log your online course evaluation at the end of the semester. Non-completion of this evaluation will result in a 3% deduction from your final grade.

**Class Attendance and Excused Absence: Policy 6.7**
Regular, punctual attendance, documented participation, and, if indicated in the syllabus, submission of completed assignments are expected at all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which the student is registered. Based on university policy, failure of students to adhere to these requirements shall influence the course grade, financial assistance, and/or enrollment status. The instructor shall maintain an accurate record of each student's attendance and participation as well as note this information in required reports and in determining final grades. Students may be excused from attendance for reasons such as health, family emergencies, or student participation in approved university-sponsored events. However, students are responsible for notifying their instructors in advance, when possible, for excusable absences. Whether absences are excused or unexcused, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for up to three weeks of absences during a semester or one week of a summer term, depending on the nature of the missed work. Make-up work must be completed as soon as possible after returning from an absence.

**Academic Integrity (A-9.1)**

Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

**Definition of Academic Dishonesty**

Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (A-54)**

Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request
services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/.