

# Sound Production and Design for Theatre

## THEA 4190

Monday & Wednesday 9:00–10:20, 10:30–11:20

### Course Description

The goal of this class is to build the students understanding of the equipment and techniques of sound production and design within a theatrical setting to prepare them to take on roles within the professional community. It is also a goal to allow the learner space to prepare to concentrate on either design or engineering.

This class will cover terminology, equipment, personnel and procedures for the sound production in the performing arts. Topics include, but not limited to, analog and digital sound consoles, microphones, speakers, amplifiers, system connections, networking, acoustics, operations, and design techniques.

### Course Structure

This course takes place in face to face meetings and through participation in Canvas. We will utilize hands on interaction with equipment, readings, online tutorials, and discussion boards.

### Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Articulate the components of a sounds system and to evaluate their effectiveness for its purpose
- Explain the choices of specific equipment and modifications
- Generate and implement design and equipment choices for a production
- Operate sound equipment effectively and safely.

### Prerequisites

Students must be a theatre major or minor; successful completion of THEA 1030: Lighting and Sound 1 with a C or better; or permission from the Instructor.

## Recommended Texts

Kaye. *Sound & Music for the Theatre...* (3rd), Focal Press, ISBN: 9780240810119

Carter, Paul. *The Backstage Handbook*. Broadway Press

Anything and everything you can get your hands on to read about sound. This includes manufacturer materials and trade magazines.

## Communication

- Instructor: Professor Adam Chamberlin
- Zoom Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, or by appointment
  - Meeting ID: 894 4791 7424
- Phone: 940.369.7592
- Email: [Adam.Chamberlin@unt.edu](mailto:Adam.Chamberlin@unt.edu)

Theatre is about communication, so I want to make myself accessible as possible. You can always email me any questions or concerns you have and I will respond within 24 hours. Take advantage of my Zoom hours, there is no such thing as a stupid question. Please feel free to post any general questions to the Q & A forum in the Discussion Board area. You never know when your classmates answer will be better than mine.

I strive to return assignments within 1 week of the due date. If that becomes unlikely, I will let you know when it can be expected.

## Course Activities & Assessments (1,000 points total)

### Activities

- In-class discussion and Projects, assignments, readings that are relevant to class (250 points)
- Document 1 hour outside (25 points)
- Sound technology project (100 points)
- Sound design project (100 points)
- Sound System project (100 points)
- 3 Sound opinion critiques of professional productions (each is 25 points for a total of 75)
- Attendance (100 points)

### Assessments

- Quizzes on topics discussed or to be discussed (150 points)
- Final Progress Exam (100 points)

### Grading

- A: 90-100% (The student performs well above the minimum criteria.)
- B: 80-89% (The student performs above the minimum criteria.)
- C: 70-79% (The student meets the criteria of the assignment.)

- D: 60-69% (The student fails to meet the minimum criteria.)
- F: 59 and below (The student fails to complete the assignment.)

## **Grade-related Policies**

### **Late Work**

All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade deduction unless the student has a [university-excused absence](#) and provides documentation. If you are having trouble with handing in your work, let's find a solution together.

### **Turnaround Time**

I strive to return assignments within 1 week of the due date. If that becomes unlikely, I will let you know when it can be expected.

### **Extra Credit**

There is the possibility of extra credit to work on department productions. If there opportunities arise, I will inform the amount of credit available.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Materials Required**

- A computer you can download software to; have access to; and you have administrative privileges on.
- 12" architects scale ruler
- dedicated USB drive (used only for this class)
- 6" or 8" adjustable wrench

### **Attendance**

Treat this class as a production you are working: show up and be on time.

- 3 Lates (1-15 minutes after the start of class) will count as an absence
- 2 Really Lates (15-30 minutes) will count as an absence
- After 30 minutes, lateness will be counted as an absence

Life happens to us all. If there is a lateness or absence for a reason other than University approved activities, religious observances, medical emergencies of a close relative or yourself (documentation required), let's work towards a reasonable remedy.

### **Health and Safety**

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

## **Labs**

As part of the hands-on training in this class, you will be working with the department sound equipment. This equipment is heavy, can have sharp edges, and is at times quite dirty. Please wear clothing, including closed toed shoes, that will not inhibit your ability to participate.

## **UNT and Department of Dance and Theatre Policies**

### **Class Policies**

Cellphones and outside communication can be a distraction to the speaker, to other students, and to yourself. Please silence and limit the use of your phones, smart watches, tablets, and computers unless being directly used for educational purposes. If there is an extraordinary need to have access, please speak to the instructor prior to the start of class.

Be kind to your colleagues. We will be having open discussions about design and technology, helping each other to understand techniques and processes.

On work days, please dress appropriate to the task. Closed toed shoes and clothes you are ok getting dirty.

Our classroom is the theatre. There are no drinks or food allowed except for water that may be sealed.

### **Safe Space**

This class is a safe space where all are welcome regardless of race, gender, creed, nationality or any other external barriers that are perceived to separate us. The utmost respect will be given to the students and the faculty member expects the same in return. Students also must be respectful of their classmates and guests.

If at anytime you do not believe this principal is being uphold please visit with the faculty member and if that is not possible or your do not feel comfortable doing so please see the department chair, Dr. Lorenzo Garcia.

You are also able to contact the Office of the Dean of Students with any of your concerns. [deanofstudents@unt.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@unt.edu) This is also a fantastic resource if you are having any issues related to your education at UNT.

### **Department of Dance and Theatre Policies**

Instructors can drop students on the first day of class for being absent without prior arrangement.

Dance/ Theatre students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignment within the Department as well as outside employment and other obligations sometimes impose conflicting pressures on Dance/ Theatre students. One of the principal responsibilities of each student is to carefully identify and monitor the commitments that compromise of their departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind that production work and outside obligations do

not constitute an excused absence form any class or from the completion of any required class assignment.

Theatre majors must maintain at 2.0 GPA within their major classes.

## **UNT Policies**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive a "0" for that particular assignment or exam [or specify alternative sanction, such as course failure]. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the Dean of Students, who may impose further penalty. According to the UNT catalog, the term "cheating" includes, but is not limited to: a. use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations; b. dependence upon the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments; c. the acquisition, without permission, of tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty or staff member of the university; d. dual submission of a paper or project, or resubmission of a paper or project to a different class without express permission from the instructor(s); or e. any other act designed to give a student an unfair advantage. The term "plagiarism" includes, but is not limited to: a. the knowing or negligent use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment; and b. the knowing or negligent unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.

### **Acceptable Student Behavior**

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu> (Links to an external site.).

### **Access to Information**

Eagle Connect Your access point for business and academic services at UNT occurs at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. All official communication from the university will be delivered to your Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward your e-mail: <http://eagleconnect.unt.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

### **ADA Statement**

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://disability.unt.edu>. You may also contact them by phone at (940) 565-4323.

## **Emergency Notification & Procedures**

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify you with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). The system sends voice messages (and text messages upon permission) to the phones of all active faculty staff, and students. Please make certain to update your phone numbers at <http://www.my.unt.edu>. Some helpful emergency preparedness actions include: 1) know the evacuation routes and severe weather shelter areas in the buildings where your classes are held, 2) determine how you will contact family and friends if phones are temporarily unavailable, and 3) identify where you will go if you need to evacuate the Denton area suddenly. In the event of a university closure, please refer to Blackboard for contingency plans for covering course materials.

## **Retention of Student Records**

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Blackboard online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. You have a right to view your individual record; however, information about your records will not be divulged to other individuals without the proper written consent. You are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the university's policy in accordance with those mandates at the following link: <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/ferpa.html>

## **Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT)**

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The Student Perception of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

## **Succeed at UNT**

UNT endeavors to offer you a high-quality education and to provide a supportive environment to help you learn and grown. And, as a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. Here's how to succeed at UNT: Show up. Find Support. Get advised. Be prepared. Get involved. Stay focused. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can achieve success, go [http:// success.unt.edu/](http://success.unt.edu/).