

Sound Production and Design for Theatre

THEA 4190

Monday & Wednesday 9:00 – 10:20 : LAB – TBD

Course Description:

The goal of this class is to build an understanding of the equipment and techniques of sound production and design within a theatrical setting to prepare you to take on roles within the professional community. It is also a goal to allow you 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 meets in-person and through participation in the Canvas site. We will utilize hands on interaction with equipment, readings, online tutorials, and discussion boards. The lab section of this class will be scheduled within the first two weeks of class.

Learning Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the equipment used in recording, editing, playback, reinforcement, mixing, and communications
- To understand the fundamental science behind sound
- To know the differences between professional positions within the industry
- Introduce acoustical theories
- To gain the skills to go from script to production in audio creation
- To gain the skills to acquire Dante Level 1 Certification

Prerequisites:

You must be a theatre major or minor; successful completion of THEA 1030 with a C or better; or permission of Instructor.

Recommended Texts:

Sound and Music for the Theatre. Deena Kaye & James LeBrecht. 2nd Ed. Backstage Books: New York, 1999.

The Sound of Theatre, David Collison 1st Ed, Professional Lighting and Sound Association: London, 2008.

Audio Made Easy, Ira White, 4th Edition, Hal Leonard: Milwaukee, 2007.

Sound Check: The Basics of Sound and Sound Systems, Tony Moscal 1st Edition Hal Leonard: Milwaukee, 1994

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

This is not an exhaustive list, but an example... if this is your focus, read every book you can get your hands on... this includes trade magazines and manufacturer materials.

Communication:

- Instructor: Professor Adam Chamberlin
- Monday and Wednesday, 1:00pm to 2:00pm, or by appointment (can also be via zoom)
- Phone: 940.369.7592
- Email: 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 office hours, there is no such thing as a stupid question. 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 pts total)

- What?? Where?? Project – 50 pts
- What's going on? Project – 50 pts
- It was great! It was Awful! Critiques (3) – 75 pts
- Design sound for TBD – 100 pts
- MIC plot for TBD – 100 pts
- What's on the truck? Project – 100 pts
- What's in the space? Project – 100 pts
- In-Class projects and participation– 425 pts

Grading

- A: 900 – 1000 pts
- B: 800 – 899 pts
- C: 700 – 799 pts
- D: 600 – 699 pts
- F: 500 pts and below

Grading Related Policies

Artificial Intelligence:

The use of AI of any sort is prohibited in this class unless prior authorization is given. The use of it will result in a 0 for the assignment.

Late Work:

All work turned in after the deadline will receive a grade deduction unless the student has a [university-excused absence Links to an external site.](#) 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.

Attendance

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

- 3 Lates (1-15 minutes after start of class) will count as an absence
- 2 Really Lates (15-30 minutes) will count as an absence
- 1 Forgot about the class Late (after 30 minutes) will count as an absence

Each absence over 2 will begin to lower your final grade by ½

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, let's work towards a reasonable remedy.

Materials Required

- A computer you can download software to; have access to; and have administrative privileges on
- Dedicated digital storage (USB and Cloud preferred)
- 12" Architects scale rule
- Vectorworks spotlight, educational version

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. You will be working before, during, or after the department musical.

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 workdays, 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 any time you do not believe this principal is being upheld, 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.

You are also able to contact the Office of the Dean of Students with any of your concerns. 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 from 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 Standards and Consequences

According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement

UNT 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 a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's specific course needs. Students 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 ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

Course Safety Procedures (for Laboratory Courses)

While working in laboratory sessions, students enrolled are required to follow proper safety procedures and guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in The UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students 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). In the event of a university closure, please refer to the UNT Learning Management System (LMS) for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Survivor Advocacy

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.