



Drama Department
Drama 394 [LCL B01] Prod Techniques - Sound
Winter 2025

Instructor: Matthew Skopyk

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Office Hours: by appointment

Course Location, Days & Time: [REDACTED]
(additional class locations specified in “*Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings*”.)

The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

Course Information

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course Description:

To prepare the student to work with a balanced approach, using both technical and artistic abilities, to collaborate effectively within a theatrical production process.

Note: Normally restricted to BFA Technical Theatre: Technical Production students. Prerequisite: DRAMA 292 and/or consent of the Department.

Course Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

Students will cover several topics which will form their foundation to operate as audio technicians and sound designers in a professional theatre setting. Subjects such as; the science of sound, live audio engineering and sound system design are presented for specialized theatrical applications.

	Objectives	Expected Learning Outcomes
<i>Knowledge</i>	Deepen understanding of advanced sound design principles, including both technical and artistic aspects.	Students will be able to list and explain advanced sound design concepts specific to theatrical applications.
<i>Understanding</i>	Comprehend the role of sound in creating a theatrical atmosphere and its impact on audience perception.	Students will describe how sound design influences theatrical production, considering both emotional and technical factors.
<i>Application</i>	Apply advanced techniques in sound system	Students will demonstrate the ability to design and

	design and live audio engineering within a theatrical context.	operate complex sound systems for live theatre productions.
<i>Analysis</i>	Critically analyze various sound designs and systems used in professional theatre.	Students will assess the effectiveness of different sound reinforcement techniques and justify their choices in design.
<i>Creating</i>	Encourage innovative sound design tailored to specific theatrical productions.	Students will develop and execute original soundscapes and effects that enhance the narrative and mood of theatrical performances.
<i>Evaluation</i>	Evaluate sound designs based on technical precision, artistic creativity, and collaboration within a production team.	Students will critique sound designs, offering constructive feedback that considers both technical execution and creative intent.

Course Format:

Synchronous in person study, with upcoming materials gradually released on Canvas Module.

Textbooks:

Required [Sound and Music for the Theatre: The Art and Technique of Design](#) by Deena Kaye & James Lebrecht (4th Edition)

Recommended [Sound Effect: The Theatre We Hear](#) by Ross Brown

Recommended [The Art of Theatrical Sound Design: A Practical Guide](#) by Victoria Deiorio

Recommended [Sound Systems: Design and Optimization \(3rd Edition\)](#) by Bob McCarthy

Materials:

Required **Headphones (wired).** Larger, over ear/closed recommended.

Required **USB Thumb Drive.** 64GB or larger. USB 3.0 minimum

Recommended **Midi Keyboard/Controller.** Can be 25, 49 or higher key count. Ideally has assignable knobs and sliders as well. A Midi controller app on a Tablet may also suffice.

Recommended **RTA/Spectrum Analyser app for Smartphone/Tablet.** Many suitable free apps are available.

Recommended **dB SPL Meter.** Ideally a standalone unit. Smartphone/Tablet app will also suffice.

Recommended **External Hard Drive.** 1TB or larger to store your content.

Software:

Required Meyer Mapp 3D

Required Open Sound Meter

Required Draw.io

Required Reaper

Important Dates:

First Day of Class: January 7th, 2025

Add/Delete Date: January 17th, 2025

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5th, 2025

Withdrawal Date: April 2nd, 2025








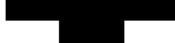
Last Day of Class: April 8th, 2025

Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings:

Week	Class #	Date	Topic	Class Location	Readings
1	1	January 7th, 2025	Class Intro, Loudspeaker Plots		Canvas Module 1
1	2	January 9th, 2025	Speaker Plots / System Schematics / Assignment 1		Canvas Module 2
2	3	January 14th, 2025	Sound Reinforcement & Speaker Prediction I		Canvas Module 3
2	4	January 16th, 2025	Sound Reinforcement & Speaker Prediction II		Canvas Module 4
3	5	January 21st, 2025	Sound Reinforcement & Speaker Prediction III		Canvas Module 5
3	6	January 23rd, 2025	Sound Reinforcement & Speaker Prediction IV		Canvas Module 6
4	7	January 28th, 2025	Final Assignment Scripts Given, Design Contracts / Production Schedules		Canvas Module 7
4	8	January 30th, 2025	Design Styles I		Canvas Module 8
5	9	February 4th, 2025	Design Styles II / Music Rights		Canvas Module 9
5	10	February 6th, 2025	Intro to "Reaper" (DAW) / Studio Mixing I		Canvas Module 10
6	11	February 11th, 2025	Studio Mixing II		Canvas Module 11
6	12	February 13th, 2025	Sound Playback & Cueing I		Canvas Module 12
Reading Week					
7	13	February 25th, 2025	Sound Playback & Cueing II		Canvas Module 13
7	14	February 27th, 2025	Advanced Theatrical Communication System	Timms MainStage Booth	Canvas Module 14
8	15	March 4th, 2025	Main Stage Audio Tour & Breakdown	Timms Main Stage	Canvas Module 15
8	16	March 6th, 2025	Sound Playback & Cueing III		Canvas Module 16

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9	17	March 11th, 2025	Sound Playback & Cueing IV		Canvas Module 17
9	18	March 13th, 2025	Sound Playback & Cueing V	Timms Main Stage	Canvas Module 18
10	19	March 18th, 2025	Sound Paperwork I		Canvas Module 19
10	20	March 20th, 2025	Sound Paperwork II		Canvas Module 20
11	21	March 25th, 2025	Final Project Work Period I (Paper Work)		Canvas Module 21
11	22	March 27th, 2025	Design Styles 3 (Pro Tips)		Canvas Module 22
12	23	April 1st, 2025	Final Project Work Period II		Canvas Module 23
12	24	April 3rd, 2025	Final Project Work Period III		Canvas Module 24
13	25	April 8th, 2025	Final Project Presentations		Canvas Module 25

Components of Course Grade:***All assignments are due by 9am (MST) on the specified dates below.***

Component	Weighting	Date
Class Participation (Involvement, Prep, Attendance)	20%	Full Term
Assignment #1 - Block Schematic Recreation	10%	Class #4 - January 16th, 2025
Assignment #2 - Block Schematic Creation	10%	Full Term (due: April 8th, 2025)
Assignment #3 - Venue Loudspeaker Prediction	10%	Class #6 - January 30th, 2025
Assignment #4 - Silent Film Sound & Foley/'Reaper' Workflow Exploration	12%	Class #13 - February 25th, 2025
Assignment #5 - Venue Integration (move to 3D space)	8%	Class #15 - March 13th, 2025
Assignment #6 - Final Project	30%	Class #26 - April 8th, 2025

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below ("**Drama Department Undergraduate Grading Scale**"). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

"Drama Undergraduate Grading Scale"

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	+97%	4.0	Excellent
A	+93%	4.0	Exceeds Expectations
A-	+90%	3.7	Good
B+	+87%	3.3	Fair
B	+83%	3.0	Meets Expectations
B-	+80%	2.7	Satisfactory
C+	+77%	2.3	Needs Improvement
C	+73%	2.0	Needs Improvement
C-	+70%	1.7	Below Expectations
D+	+67%	1.3	Below Expectations
D	+60%	1.0	Unsatisfactory (+)
F	<59%	0.0.	Unsatisfactory (-)

Participation Grading:

Unsatisfactory to Needs Improvement	Satisfactory	Meets Expectations / Fair / Good	Excellent / Exceeds Expectations
Student is repeatedly late and/or absent. Student does not engage in in-class conversations. Student is disrespectful of peer's space and learning environment.	Student is never late. Student engages in in-class conversations only when prompted by instructor.	Student is never late or absent (unexcused). Student actively engages in in-class conversations. Student is respectful of peer's space and learning environment. Student retains pre-req and new knowledge for quick recall.	Student is never late or absent (unexcused). Student actively engages in and positively contributes to in-class conversations with information obtained through self-guided research. Student is extremely respectful of their peer's space and learning environment. Student positively contributes to peers learning. Student retains pre-req and new knowledge at an exceptional level for quick recall.
F to C+	B-	B to A-	A to A+
0% to +77%	+80%	+83% to +90%	+93% to +97%
0.0 to 2.3	2.7	3.0 to 3.7	4.0

Attendance: Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In this course attendance is a must. Participation is a must. As a technician who wants to work in the theatre being on time is a MUST. All absences must be excused by the instructor.

Being late for class will not be tolerated. Unexcused absences will not be tolerated.

1st Late/Unexcused Absence: Verbal warning from instructor.

2nd Late/Unexcused Absence: Written warning from instructor.

3rd Late/Unexcused Absence: Automatic assignment of 0% for student's overall "participation grade".

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments submitted after the 9am MST deadlines will automatically be considered late. There will be a 10% deduction of assignments overall grade for each 24 hour period it remains unsubmitted. The first 10% deduction will occur at 9am MST on the assignments due date.

Extensions: If a student requires an extension on an assignment's due date, they must be proactive in communication with, and receive permission from the instructor. Personal emergencies will also be considered. An assignment extension is considered an exception, exceptions are not to be considered an on-going norm.

Missed Tests and Assignments:

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of Facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

Deferred Final Examination:

For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see ["I Missed my Final Exam. Now What?"](#)

Student Responsibilities

Academic Integrity: The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) (COSB) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. Instructors are required to report suspicion of violations to the COSB where investigation and disciplinary action will follow. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

Students who want to strengthen their academic skills and learn more on topics such as plagiarism are encouraged to explore [The Academic Success Centre](#). It provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. They offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

Additional support is also available from [The Centre for Writers](#) (C4W) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request a consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Recording of Lectures: Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

If you are experiencing harassment, discrimination, fraud, theft or any other issue and would like to get confidential advice, please contact any of these campus services:

- [Office of Safe Disclosure & Human Rights](#): A safe, neutral and confidential space to disclose concerns about how the University of Alberta policies, procedures or ethical standards are being applied. They provide strategic advice and referral on matters such as discrimination, harassment, duty to accommodate and wrong-doings. Disclosures can be made in person or online using the [Online Reporting Tool](#)
- [University of Alberta Protective Services](#): Peace officers dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of U of A campuses and community. Staff or students can contact UAPS to

make a report if they feel unsafe, threatened, or targeted on campus or by another member of the university community

- [Office of the Student Ombuds](#): A confidential and free service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. They offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.
- [Sexual Violence Supports](#): - It is the [policy](#) of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct.
- [Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate policy](#), the Office of the Dean of Students coordinates academic accommodations for prospective and current students with documented disabilities affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning, and physical or mental health. The provision of academic accommodations helps to remove structural barriers that these students encounter in academic environments in order to facilitate equivalent learning opportunities for these students. [Academic Accommodations](#) promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally-designed environment at the University of Alberta.

Student Resources

[The Student Service Centre](#) provides students with information and access to services to support academic, financial, mental, and physical well-being.

[First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources which are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. They offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

[Need Help Now](#) webpage offers contact information for a variety of supports if you are in immediate need of mental health and wellness support. One can also call the 24-hour Distress Line: 780-482-4357 (HELP)

Disclaimer: Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on Canvas Module. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.

