Drama 291 AUDIO - Assignment #1 – Aural Environment Description Paper

DUE DATE: **January 16, 2025 2pm**
Late submittal of assignment will result in a 10% penalty per day (each day at 2pm MST)

Assignment will be submitted digitally through Canvas as a .pdf

Purpose: To exercise critical listening skills, within the natural & manmade world around you, to describe in detail the aural response as it relates to you, the listener.

Choose three locations;

1. Highly reflective man-made enclosure (i.e. LRT underground corridor, Large untreated room such as the Butterdome, etc.)
2. Made-Man "canyon". (street with tall buildings – downtown).
3. Open space with adequate distance from buildings. (park, etc.)

Write a detailed analysis of each space (300 words or greater per location) describing how human voice, electronic/automated noises (escalators, cars, buses, etc.) and full frequency music (music from location PA systems, your laptop/phone, busker musical instruments) behave using the following guidelines for each location:

- What is the physical construction of the space? *What construction materials are used (carpet, tile, brick walls, etc.) or is it a natural environment (forested, river, etc.).*
- The reflective qualities of the space. *Are the reflections localized from a particular direction? Are the reflections all encompassing? Roughly, how long do the reflections last (you may record a sharp impulse, such as a clap, in the space and determine the 'decay time' on your computer). Do the reflections blend together as one uniform "decay" time or do they have sharp, repeating, easily identifiable "echoes"? Are echoes all encompassing or can you easily identify them from specific direction(s)? Do the added reflections increase the perceived sound level (SPL)?*

1. What "filter" effect does the space have on a) Direct Sound and b) Reflective "wet" sound? *What frequency ranges are apparent at which proportion for close sounds? Distance sounds? What happens to these frequency ranges as the source approaches and retreats? Are there any frequencies that tend to carry further, louder and longer in the space?*

Suggested Tools:

1. Computer with recording software – This can also be your phone or tablet if it can perform the same tasks.
2. Real Time Analyser (RTA) / Spectrum Analyzer – You can find this within Ableton, or a standalone app for your phone.

You will be marked by the following criteria:

- Location descriptions totalling 900 words or greater.
- Depth of description. Be as descriptive of the aural environment as possible! No detail is too small to dismiss.

GRADING:

Unsatisfactory to Below Expectations	**Needs Improvement**	**Satisfactory**	**Meets Expectations / Fair / Good**	**Excellent / Exceeds Expectations**
Assignment is not submitted.	Assignment is rushed. Minimal description of acoustic environments.	Student demonstrates a moderate understanding of their acoustic environment. Descriptions are moderate, but vague.	Student demonstrates a strong understanding of their acoustic environment. Descriptions are moderately thorough.	Student demonstrates an exceptional understanding of their acoustic environments. Writing shows additional self-researched information. Photos are attached as documentation of each space. Descriptions are extremely thorough.
F to C-	**C to C+**	**B-**	**B to A-**	**A to A+**
0% to 72%	**73% to 79%**	**+80 to 82%**	**+83% to +90%**	**+93% to +97%**
0.0 to 1.9	**2.0 to 2.3**	**2.7**	**3.0 to 3.7**	**4.0**