

## **Drama 394 Assignment #4 - Silent Film Sound & Foley/'Reaper'**

### **Workflow Exploration**

**Due:** February 25th, 2025, 9 a.m.

**Project Purpose:** Develop sound design techniques in a film context while independently learning the DAW Reaper. This assignment will challenge you to adapt your existing knowledge of Ableton Live to a new platform, using resources like ChatGPT to aid your learning process. The main goals are to familiarize yourself with navigating and working in Reaper and to apply sound design concepts from Drama 291 as you craft a compelling audio experience for selected silent film scenes.

**Assignment Details:** For this assignment, you will select one of three silent scenes from the appropriate Canvas section. Your task is to create and implement all sound elements for your chosen scene, including but not limited to:

- Foley sound effects
- Recorded sound effects
- Recorded text or dialogue
- Pulled muscle or abstract sounds

There is no limitation on the number of sound effects or recorded elements you can use. Your focus should be on the artistic and technical integration of sound within the scene.

### **Goals for This Assignment:**

#### **1. Reaper Familiarity:**

- Independently learn to navigate and work within Reaper.
- Skills to demonstrate include:
  - Moving clips on/off the grid
  - Cutting up clips
  - Envelope automation
  - FX inserts on tracks
  - FX sends
  - Recording directly into the DAW

#### **2. Artistic Sound Design Application:**

- Reapply your knowledge of Kaye's sound design terms (from Drama 291).
- Artistically approach the implementation of sound to align with the narrative and emotional tone of the scene.
- Define your own aesthetic for the scene and strive to remain consistent within it. The aesthetic should be believable for the visual content, artistically pleasing, and not limiting.

**Submission Instructions:** You will submit a bundled Reaper project file containing all associated resources (e.g., sound files, movie file). To bundle your project:

1. Open your project in Reaper.
2. Go to **File > Save Project As...**
3. In the save dialog:
  - Select a location to save your project.
  - Check the box for **"Copy all media into project directory."**
  - Check the box for **"Convert media"** if you want to ensure all files are in a consistent format.
4. Save the project. This will create a folder containing your .rpp file and all associated media.

Compress (zip) the entire project folder before submitting it to Canvas.

File name format: DR394\_W25\_firstname\_lastname\_option#\_assignment4.zip *File names not in this format will be considered a late submission and are subject to late submission penalty until correctly resubmitted.*

### **Tips for Success:**

1. **Exploration and Adaptation:**
  - Use ChatGPT or other resources to translate your knowledge of Ableton Live into Reaper's workflow.
  - Experiment with Reaper's features to find efficient ways of working.
2. **Sound Design:**
  - Use the concepts of diegetic and non-diegetic sound, as well as representational and stylized approaches, to enhance the storytelling.
  - Consider using layering, panning, reverb, and dynamics to create a cohesive mix.
  - Focus on finding a unique aesthetic for your scene that is both believable and creatively engaging.
3. **Technical Execution:**
  - Ensure all sound elements are synced accurately to the video.
  - Use automation and effects creatively to add depth and realism.

**Grading Rubric (worth 12% of overall Drama 394 grade):**

<b>Unsatisfactory to Below Expectations</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Meets Expectations/Fair/Good/Excellent / Exceeds Expectations</b>
Student does not follow assignment guidelines and/or the assignment is not submitted.	Student demonstrates some understanding of Reaper and sound design concepts but lacks consistency and/or organization. Reaper file may lack clear labeling or adequate usage of FX, automation, and other tools. Sound implementation is rudimentary.	Student demonstrates a solid understanding of Reaper and sound design concepts. Reaper file is moderately well-organized, with some labeling and usage of FX, automation, and other tools. Sound implementation aligns well with the film's needs but could be improved artistically or technically.	Student shows exceptional creativity and maintains a good aesthetic. Reaper file is well-organized, with tracks and clips clearly labeled and color-coded (to student's preference). Student demonstrates exceptional usage of insert FX, automation envelopes, clip cutting, etc. The auditory experience of the film is exceptional.
<b>F to C-</b>	<b>C to C+</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>B to A+</b>
<b>0% to 72%</b>	<b>73% to 79%</b>	<b>+80 to 82%</b>	<b>+83% to +97%</b>
<b>0.0 to 1.9</b>	<b>2.0 to 2.3</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>

**Resources:**

- ChatGPT for DAW transition guidance
- Online tutorials and forums for Reaper
- Drama 291 sound design notes

Good luck!