

**SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
THEA 5305 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH – THEATER SOUND**

SPR 2017

M-F

Time by Arrangement

Scene shop, Studio Theatre, and Marshall
Auditorium

Bret Scott, Asst. Professor

Office: FAB 208

432/837-8794

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Regular Office Hours:

TBD, walk-in basis

All others by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This class is structured as an independent study of technical theater sound production techniques. The student will be assigned sound recording, editing, and mixing projects with the expectation that the student will research and design solutions for each design challenge presented, and once the instructor has approved this solution, the student will execute the build of that solution in a timely and under-budget fashion.

COURSE GOALS: The student should acquire a fundamental knowledge of the terminology, building techniques, equipment and aesthetic value associated with the construction and preparation of sound elements. Students will also acquire working knowledge of adhering to production schedules and overall theatre production management.

DAYS AND HOURS: By arrangement with Prof. Scott. Projects will be assigned on an as-needed basis.

SHOP SAFETY POLICY: in the scene shop, we use power tools, sharp objects, and frequently work with large, heavy scenic elements. Safety is the FIRST priority, above deadline, aesthetics, and even comfort. GLOVES are mandatory and must be purchased by each and EVERY student. No exceptions. No open-toed shoes in the shop. Protective eye and ear-wear will be required when appropriate (respirators, too, if need be). Sound systems utilize heavy equipment, overhead mounting rigs, and often involve high voltage. IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OR ARE UNCERTAIN ABOUT A TOOL, PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, OR PROCEDURE, **ASK**. Your safety and the safety of your classmates is the single highest priority in our work. FAILURE TO ABIDE BY SAFETY GUIDELINES IS A "THREE STRIKES" system. If you are noted for safety violations three times, you fail the class and will have to take it again. No mercy, no exceptions. Your health and personal safety demand this.

THEATRE PROGRAM LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to meet one or more of the program learning outcomes applied to all Theatre majors. The graduating theatre student will demonstrate:

1. A knowledge of the eras and contributions made throughout Theatre History and Musical Theatre History.

Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in Acting/Directing will demonstrate:

2. The ability to express themselves creatively through appropriate theatrical performance.
3. The ability to analyze script.
4. The ability to work creatively with actors and technicians in mounting a laboratory theatrical production.

5. The ability to apply standard requirements to all aspects of technical production. Additionally the graduating student with a concentration in technical/design will demonstrate:
6. The ability to apply all approaches to theatrical design and rendering of the design.
7. The ability to address all technical aspects of a theatrical production.

SCOPE OF COURSE: Students will be graded on number of lab hours worked OR production duties achieved. If choosing to accrue shop hours, it is necessary that you locate and work with a theatre shop staff member. If choosing to crew a show, you must attend all technical rehearsals and performances.

LAB HOURS: A student will be required to work and log no less than 45 quality hours in the theatre construction areas to receive an A. All hours must be approved by Dona Roman or Missy Embrey as they are the costume shop and scene shop supervisors, and they will guide your work in these lab hours. Missy and Dona will initial your time worked daily. **You will also have to work show strike.** Strike is when the production is broken down and stored. This happens immediately after the last performance is completed.

You will fill out a time sheet. The time sheet will be kept at either the Scene Shop or the Costume Shop. Your duties will include building sets or costumes, hanging lights, acquiring props or assisting with publicity. Your time sheet needs to be initialed daily.

PRODUCTION CREDIT: If a student chooses to work on a production, they must commit to a specific area of production and attend all technical rehearsals and performances. **Failure to do so will automatically convert your grade to an F.**

AREAS OF PRODUCTION: Assistant Stage Management, Assistant to the Director, Lightboard operator, Soundboard operator, Costumes, Make-up, Running Crew.

Front of House: *House Management, Concession Stand and Box Office management positions will require attendance only at actual performances (no technical rehearsals). As such, students selecting these positions will be required to work on both Spring productions.*

Grading Scale:

For Research assignments

Each sound design element assignment is cumulative. There are four assignments. Each is worth 25% of your grade. Scale is as follows:

A = Indistinguishable from professional results. No glitches. Clear mix. No mic perspective issues. Levels correct for application. Delivery in a usable professional format.

B = Highly polished amateur work. A few minor glitches. Mix may need another pass. Mic perspective may be inconsistent. Levels uneven.

C = Moderately skilled amateur work. More than a few minor glitches, perhaps one or two major. Mix is muddy or weak. Mic perspective is uneven. Levels are wildly uneven.

D = Amateur work. Major glitches. Little attempt at mixing. Mic perspectives not considered. No management of recording levels.

F = No attempt made to manage any areas of craft or failure to deliver an earnest attempt at assignment completion.

For Production (crew) assignments

Your grade is a pass/fail (A or F). Attending all technical rehearsals and performances for the show you

have committed to will result in an automatic A. **Failure to attend and perform duties for all rehearsals and performances will result in an automatic F, regardless of hours accrued.**

For non-production (build) assignments

When the semester is completed your quality hours will be added up and your grade will be based on the following factors: Minimum of 45 shop hours completed, good collaborative attitude, demonstrated ability to learn and willingness to work = A. Anything less = F.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Sul Ross State University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Counseling and Accessibility Services, Ferguson Hall, Room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203.