TPA 4930 Sound Design

Spring 2020   3 Credit Hours   Revised 20191230

Basic Information

Instructor: Jing Zhao   352 273 0578   jzhao@arts.ufl.edu
Time and Place: Mon/Wed 08:30 – 10:25   McGuire 217   elearning.ufl.edu
Office Location and Hours: McGuire 201   Tue 14:00 – 16:00 by appointment only

Course Description

This course guides students through the exploration of the functions of sound and music, the evolutionary origin of theatre, and how a sound designer/composer can take advantage of this knowledge in their work. During each class meeting, students will present their projects followed by a discussion.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills

This course assumes no prior knowledge or skills in sound design. Ability to use a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation) or QLab may be helpful, but is not required.

Course Goals and/or Objectives

After you complete this course, you will:
- Be able to articulate your aesthetic regarding the art of sound.
- Be able to identify the elements of color, mass, time, space, and line in sound music.
- Be able to understand better the relationship between music and the brain.
- Have participated in a number of exercises in composing sound scores.

Textbooks, Software and Instructional Materials

- Thomas, Richard K. 2018. *Music as a Chariot*. London: Routledge. ISBN: 1138295779.
- A portable recording device which will record audio in WAV, mp3, or AIFF format (most smartphones can do this).

Course Fees

Material and supply fees are assessed for certain courses to offset the cost of materials or supply items consumed in the course of instruction. A list of approved courses and fees is published in the Schedule of Courses each semester. (UF-3.0374 Regulations of the University of Florida).
Material and supply and equipment use fee information is available from the academic departments or from the schedule of courses (Florida Statutes 1009.24). The course fee for this class is $136.88.

Course Schedules

Date	Topic		Read BEFORE class
1/6	Introduction to Course		
1/8	Chapter 1	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 1
1/13		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
1/15	Chapter 2	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 2
1/20		NO CLASS: MLK Day	
1/22		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
1/27	Chapter 3	Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 3
1/29		Project 3 Presentation & Discussion	
2/3	Chapter 4	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 4
2/5		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
2/10	Chapter 5	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 5
2/12		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
2/17	Chapter 6	Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 6
2/19		Project 3 Presentation & Discussion	
2/24	Chapter 7	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 7
2/26		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
3/2		NO CLASS: Spring Break	
3/4		NO CLASS: Spring Break	
3/9	Chapter 8	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 8
3/11		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
3/16	Chapter 9	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 9
3/18		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
3/23	Chapter 10	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 10
3/25		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
3/30		NO CLASS: USITT	
4/1		NO CLASS: USITT	
4/6		Project 3 Presentation & Discussion	
4/8	Chapter 11	Project 1 Presentation & Discussion	Chapter 11
4/13		Project 2 Presentation & Discussion	
4/15	Chapter 12	Project Work Day	Chapter 12
4/20		Project Work Day	
4/22		Project Presentation	

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment or Course Component	Points
Projects (23 projects at 4 points each)	92
Final Project	8
Total	**100**

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	% Equivalency	GPA Equivalency
A	94 – 100%	4.0
A-	90 – 93%	3.67
B+	87 – 89%	3.33
B	84 – 86%	3.00
B-	80 – 83%	2.67
C+	77 – 79%	2.33
C	74 – 76%	2.00
C-	70 – 73%	1.67
D+	67 – 69%	1.33
D	64 – 66%	1.00
D-	60 – 63%	.67
E, I, NG, S-U, WF		0.00

More information on grades and grading policies can be found at
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx

Course Policies

Textbook and Projects

Students are required to read the textbook chapters detailed in the Course Schedule section of this document before the beginning of each class. There are a total of 24 projects, and each will be presented and discussed in class. Projects will be submitted to a Dropbox folder hosted by the instructor; the link to the folder will be posted on Canvas.

Participation and Grading

This is a project-based and discussion-oriented course. The grade of a project depends on whether you have completed it and presented it on time, and the apparent effort you have made in creating it. Participation in in-class discussion is crucial to your success in this course. You are expected to bring passion, curiosity, and critical thinking to every class meeting. The more you invest in it, the more you will get out of it.

Attendance

Attendance to receive the proper instruction and feedback on your assignments is paramount to your success in this class. It is understandable that sometimes your absence cannot be avoided. Please contact the instructor prior to the class session that needs to be missed. Due to the discussion-oriented nature of this course, typically, missing any part of a graded assignment results in forfeiting the grade for that assignment. However, the instructor is willing to work with the student in making up a missed assignment, if possible, on a case-by-case basis.

Quiz/Exam Policy

There are 3 quizzes to be given at the beginning of classes. Each quiz is worth 5 points. There is no final exam for this course.

Make-up Policy

Late assignments (when such an arrangement is possible) will be marked down at 80%. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

Course Technology

The students will be required to have access to a personal computer with the access to the Internet. Word editing software will be required for written assignments, if any. Students should have personal access to the Internet. Other technologies will be introduced during the course session. The student is required to have a fast USB hard drive or thumb drive to store and back up project files.

Course Communications

Students can communicate directly with the Instructor regarding the course material through email. Electronic communication must demonstrate a formal tone and style, and unless absolutely urgent, will be responded to M-F 10:00 – 18:00.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/.

UF Policies

Honest Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Students requiring accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Netiquette Communication Courtesy

All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats, more information can be found at: http://teach.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf

Online course evaluations

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/.

Campus Resources

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care
If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392- 1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center
http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

1. University Police Department, 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
   http://www.police.ufl.edu/

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning- support@ufl.edu. https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
http://www.crc.ufl.edu/

Library Support, http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
http://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/

Student Complaints Campus:
https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf

On-Line Students Complaints:
http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process

Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.