

What is theatrical sound design? Funny you should ask...

Introduction to sound design attempts to answer that question, exploring what sound design is, how to look at a text and launch your creative process, and how to take the ideas based on that creative process and turn them into sounds to be used in a show. This is all done through a series of introductory lab projects and then a complete design for a short play, all while learning 3 new pieces of software. This is a highly interactive class, where student participation is key; students will be expected to take part in each others projects, as well as creating their own work.

Date	Covered	Assignment (due the following week)	Reference Info
01/26	Intro, student level assessment, sound design philosophy, brief technical overview, lab intro, journal intro, music intro.	Record 10 sounds, begin listening journals	
02/02	Listen to selected sounds & discuss. Listen to Listening Journals PRO-TOOLS 1: Getting sounds in, playing with soundfiles, volume and pan.	Build Non-narrative Collage (1-3 minutes) 1 Listening Journal entry	ProTools Basics 1
02/09	Listen to Non-narrative Collages Listen to Listening Journals Discuss Narrative Collage PRO-TOOLS 2: Q&A, Plug-Ins, Auxes	Build Narrative Collage (1-3 minutes) 1 Listening Journal	ProTools Basics 2
02/16	Listen to Narrative Collages, Listening Journals Introduce and Discuss "I'll Go Get Phil" Introduce Cue Synopsis PRO-TOOLS 3: Voice Over's, Mic Technique	"I'll Go Get Phil" project, including cue synopsis	ProTools Recording & Sample Cue Synopsis
02/23	Present "I'll Go Get Phil" projects Intro Word Response PRO-TOOLS catch all	Read All Final Plays, 1 Word Response	Final Plays
03/02	Discuss final plays & assign teams Listen to Word Responses	Final Play Emotional Response: director AND designer	
03/09	Listen to Emotional Responses Discuss Research, sources. REASON #1 – What's a sampler & how to use it?	Final Play research, 2 sources, Cue Synopsis	Reason 1
03/23	Present Research, hand in Cue Synopsis Signal Flow – what is it, and why?	Final Play rehearsal, Signal flow sample	Signal Flow
03/30	Runthroughs of all Final Scenes REASON #2 – What else can we do?	Revise Cue Synopsis based on runthru, 4 cues for Final	Reason 2
04/06	Review cues, discuss challenges, true tales of show business	Final Roughs	
04/13	Present Final Preliminaries SFX #1 – What is it? How does it work?	Final Finals	SFX 1
04/20	Present all Final cues in ProTools SFX #2 – Getting from ProTools to SFX, etc.	Prebuild Medallion SFX in the Lab	SFX 2
04/27 -30	Tech Finals in the Black Box	Revisions based on tech	
05/04	Final Project Marathon.	Vacation	

Grading Policy: Total Grade = 100 Points

Homework: 10

Non-Narrative Collage: 10

“I’ll Go Get Phil”: 10

Instructor discretion: 10

Classroom Participation: 10

Narrative Collage: 10

Final Project: 40

If you’re not in class, your classroom participation grade automatically becomes a “F.” and you won’t be able to present and discuss your homework, which means that grade becomes an “F” as well. This will certainly have a detrimental impact on your grade. But, much more importantly, if you miss a class, you’ll miss that week’s ideas, information & technology, and that’s going to make it a whole lot harder for you to do your work. None of us want that. (Limited documented excused absences are, of course, acceptable.)

Grades are based not on a sense of “right” or “wrong” but on how you connect your ideas to their execution. Your product is important only in as much as it is to be a fulfillment of your process.

You must back up your work. In the real world, if the director shows up for a listening meeting and you don’t have anything to play for her/him, then you’re not too likely to work with that director again... All assignments are expected to be handed in when due; “the computer crashed” may be true, but it sounds a lot like “the dog ate my homework.” We all deal with computer crashes regularly in this industry; we also all show up with the expected product.

Lastly – please bring all of your sound assignments on CD, and hard copies of all of your written assignments that I can take away with me. I will give it all back at the end of the semester!