

# Performance Sound

THEA 3493-201, CRN 14007

**Course Description:** Principles of and practices in sound design, reinforcement, recording, editing, and reproduction in the entertainment industry.

**Class Time:** TR 3:30–4:50 PM

**Class Location:** Fain Fine Arts, B103

**Instructor:** Eric A. Koger

**Office Phone:** 940-397-4781

**Email:** Eric.Koger@msutexas.edu

**Office Location:** Fain Fine Arts, B123

**Office Hours:** 10:00–11:00 AM MTWRF. In general, stopping by is an option but does not guarantee availability. Send an email to ensure a specific time. If I am not in my office, I may be in one of the two theatre spaces or in the scene shop.

## Disclaimer

The information provided within this syllabus may be subject to change. Always assume that the syllabus is correct unless the instructor has made a formal amendment.

## Course Objectives

This course will assist you in developing and demonstrating:

1. Identify the various components of a typical sound system
  - a. Knowledge of the development of theatre
2. proper use of sound vocabulary
  - a. Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application
  - b. Employability
3. a firm knowledge of setup/strike protocol and standards
  - a. Theoretical/conceptual knowledge and application
  - b. Employability
  - c. Safety knowledge and practice
  - d. Professionalism

## Course Requirements

To succeed in this course, you will need to ensure the following requirements are met, daily.

By accepting this syllabus, you are indicating that you understand and accept all the policies listed herein.

1. Daily participation in all activities is mandatory. Foundational information is given and explained in class and then built upon over the semester. Absences will cause many issues as you move forward in this course.
2. Completion of the assigned projects on the due date. Incomplete assignments will be graded as such and could be grounds for significant point loss. Late assignments will not be accepted.
3. Keep track of your grades using the section under tentative schedule of this syllabus. If an assignment is returned on a day that you are absent, it is your responsibility to seek out the missing items and grade.
4. D2L will be utilized during this course.
5. It is a mandate that all faculty use the official MSU student emails. No other email will be used.
6. Header information on all assignments must be in one line and contain the following: Your first and last name, the date of submission, and the class name and number. For Instance:
7. Eric Koger                      August 24th 2026                      THEA 3493 Sound
8. In addition, all work MUST be typed, printed, stapled, spell-checked, and grammar checked prior to class beginning. Documents that do not meet these criteria will be assessed a point deduction.
9. \*\*\*When printing, make sure that your name is clearly typed on your work. Not hand scrawled.
10. During finals week, you are required to attend class. Each class meets at a specific time that will not overlap with other exam times.
11. The final for this class is Tuesday, December 8, 2026, at 3:30–5:30 PM.

## Textbook & Instructional Materials

Sound and Music for the Theatre: The art and Technique of Design, 3rd edition.

ISBN: 9780240810119

## Supplies

We will be working on sound projects in the computer lab. It is essential that you have headphones that are capable of being used with the computers in lab.

In the age of Covid, it is necessary to prepare for remote course work. This will require you to have the following supplies.

Working video camera with sound for your computer

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A stable internet connection

ZOOM software installed

## Distance Learning Preparation

To ensure our preparedness for any potential health concerns, there are several requirements. If the course is forced to an online modality, it is expected that the student will be able to make that transition with ease. A working video camera with sound and a stable internet connection, are vital. In addition, when in class via ZOOM, the student must be consistently visible in their ZOOM window. If the student cannot be seen, they will be counted absent. When setting up for a ZOOM class, the student's class environment must be free of distraction and external noise. This means, no driving or walking somewhere or doing laundry while in class. Also, ensure you are in an environment where you can participate audibly without significant background noise.

## Grading

Types of learning

Course content will be provided via readings (on D2L), lectures (in class attendance), and through assessment of project work.

Makeup policy – Late assignments will NOT be accepted. All assignments will be formally collected during the class period in which they are due. Quizzes missed due to absenteeism cannot be made up.

Withdrawals – It is the responsibility of the student to properly withdraw. The last day to withdraw with a "W" is November 25th. Be sure to verify this date as needed.

Point value/grade distribution: 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59-0=F

There are 110 points possible, but grades will be calculated on a 100point scale.

A separate Tentative Schedule provides the dated Point Breakdown. Students should use the Earned Points column to maintain their own running grade record.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend all meetings of the classes in which they are enrolled. Although in general students are graded on intellectual effort and performance rather than attendance, absences may lower the student's grade where class attendance and class participation are deemed essential by the faculty member. In this course, attendance and participation are essential. Attendance is recorded daily. Excessive absences may result in a course consequence consistent with General University Policies. Students are responsible for material missed due to absence and must follow the course-specific attendance requirements stated below.

Course-specific attendance requirements: Attendance is mandatory. Unavoidable absences should be communicated to the instructor by email as soon as possible. Late assignments will not be accepted, and quizzes missed due to absenteeism cannot be made up. Students are responsible for missed sound-system, recording, laboratory, and production information.

## **Cell Phones and Other Recording Devices**

Cell phones must be silenced, put away completely out of sight, and not accessed until after class. The use of cell phones and other electronic devices is prohibited during class unless the instructor specifically authorizes their use for a legitimate course-related purpose.

Recording class sessions is prohibited unless it is part of a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or is authorized in writing by the instructor. When recording is authorized, recordings are for personal use only and may not be uploaded to the internet or otherwise shared, transmitted, or published without the instructor's prior consent.

## **Computer, Laptop, and Tablet Usage**

Computers, laptops, tablets, and other electronic devices are essential instructional tools for designated sound-design, recording, editing, laboratory, and production activities. They may be used when required or authorized for a course-related activity. Personal or non-course-related use of electronic devices is prohibited during class. Students should follow the instructor's directions regarding when devices should be used or put away.

## **Dress Code**

It is probable that the class will be installing or maintaining the sound system in our theatre space. Be aware that we may be getting dirty during class or participating in activities that require movement. Dress appropriately. Be aware of all Shop Safety requirements as posted in the shop and on the theatre website.

## **Conduct Statement**

Classroom behavior that interferes with either the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to benefit from the instruction will result in the instructor's removing the disruptive student(s) from the class.

## **Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures**

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct.

## **ChatGPT and AI**

AI Writing tools are not permitted for any stage or phase of work in this class. If you use these tools, your actions would be considered academically dishonest and treated as plagiarism.

## **Student Privacy Statement**

In accordance with Federal Privacy Laws a student's personal information is protected.

As an instructor it is unlawful for me to share your personal information (including grades) with anyone unless I have written consent. This means I will not be able to discuss your grades with parents. If you have questions about your grades or have forgotten the grading policy for the course please come by during office hours.

## **Services for Students with Disabilities**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Student Wellness Center, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to Disability Support Services.

## **Campus Carry Rules/Policies**

Refer to: Campus Carry Rules and Policies. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law.

## **Fall 2026 Course Calendar Exceptions**

Thursday, October 22, 2026 — NO CLASS — Instructor Professional Travel.

Thursday, November 26, 2026 — NO CLASS — Thanksgiving Holiday.

## **Departmental Production Dates**

Tower Stories — September 10–12, 2026.

Ordinary Days — September 24–27, 2026.

The Crucible — November 12–15, 2026.

## **Final Examination**

The source syllabus identifies Tuesday, December 8, 2026, 3:30–5:30 PM. Final examination timing should be confirmed against the official Fall 2026 MSU Texas examination schedule before publication.

## **Tentative Schedule**

See the accompanying Fall 2026 Tentative Schedule for the complete dated schedule, Point Breakdown, Earned Points tracking area, departmental production dates, and course-calendar exceptions.