

TPA 3263 Introduction to Sound Design and Technology

Spring 2026

3 Credits

Revised 20260106

Basic Information

Contact

Meeting Time: T/Th 10:40 PM – 12:35 PM
Classroom: CON 217

Office: CON 201, T/Th 12:45 PM -1:45 PM
jzhao@arts.ufl.edu

Course Description

This course introduces students to the basics in sound design and technology. Students will work on projects about design elements and design process. The course has four graded components: Sound Fundamentals, Design Elements, Sound Equipment, and Design Project. The first three components are evaluated by in-class presentations and quizzes. The Design Project consists of six progressive submissions which are graded independently. See the Evaluation of Grades section of this document for more details.

You will be able to find detailed instructions and guidelines on each of the graded elements on Canvas when they are assigned. Please do not hesitate to email the instructor if you have any questions about any of the components of the course.

Prerequisite Knowledge and Skills

An interest in design and production for live events. A willingness and desire to participate in the technical operation of productions at UF.

Course Goals and/or Objectives

- Understanding of the physical properties of sound.
- Introduction to design elements and sound equipment.
- Development of vocabulary and knowledge for engagement on a production.
- Demonstration of ability to sound design a mini production.

Textbooks, Software and Instructional Materials

While there isn't a required textbook, the instructors will be suggesting reading and research and sharing a variety of instructional resources. The students are highly encouraged to work with a personal workbook or a digital note taking device.

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 UF Schedule of Courses shows that this course has additional course fees of \$136.88.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments/Quizzes
1/13	Introduction to course	
1/15	Sound Fundamentals 1	
1/20	NO CLASS: KCACTF	
2/22	NO CLASS: KCACTF	
1/27	Sound Fundamentals 2	Design Project Groups Due
1/29	Sound Fundamentals Demos	
2/3	Design Elements: Color, Mass	Quiz 1 Sound Fundamentals
2/5	Color Presentations	Design Project Story Due
2/10	Mass Presentations	
2/12	Design Element: Rhythm, Line	
2/17	Rhythm Presentations	
2/19	Line Presentations	Design Project Cue Sheets Due
2/24	NO CLASS: KCACTF	
2/26	Design Element: Habituation & Startle	
3/3	Habituation & Startle Presentations	
3/5	Design Element: Consonance & Dissonance	
3/10	Consonance & Dissonance Presentations	Design Project Revised Cue Sheets Due
3/12	Digital and Network Audio	
3/17	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	
3/19	NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK	
3/24	Equipment: Microphones	Quiz 2 Digital and Network Audio
3/26	Equipment: Loudspeakers	
3/31	QLab	Quiz 3 Sound Equipment
4/2	Rough Sound Presentations	Design Project Rough Sound Due
4/7	Work Day: QLab Workspace	Design Project QLab Due
4/9	Design Project Tech Rehearsals	
4/14	Design Project Tech Rehearsals	
4/16	Design Project Tech Rehearsals	
4/21	Design Project Presentations	Dante Level 1 Certification Due

Evaluation of Grades

Grades Breakdown

Assignment or Course Component	Points
DESIGN ELEMENTS	30
Color Project	5
Mass Project	5
Rhythm Project	5
Line Project	5
Habituation and Startle Project	5
Consonance and Dissonance	5
DESIGN PROJECT	40
Story	5
Cue Sheets	5
Revised Cue Sheets	5
Rough Sound	5
QLab Workspace	5
Final Presentation	15
QUIZZES & CERTIFICATION	30
Quiz 1 Sound Fundamentals	10
Quiz 2 Digital Audio and Network Audio	5
Quiz 3 Equipment	10
Dante Level 1 Certification	5
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

Assignments

There are a number of class projects. Some projects will become the basis for later projects, making it especially important to finish on time. Due dates of project are posted in the Course Schedule section of this document. Detailed project guidelines will be posted on Canvas.

Grading

Your assignment grades will be based on these factors:

- Your understanding of the assignment and your ability to follow instructions.
- The completion of the project during the time required.
- All factors that are in the assignment are addressed completely and correctly.
- Ability to discuss your project using the correct terminology when called upon.

Participation and Attendance

The success of this course is based on discussion and class participation. Attendance is vital. Your first unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. The second unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. The third unexcused absence will lower your final grade by an additional 15%. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your final grade by an additional 30%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence.

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>) and require appropriate documentation.

Quiz/Exam Policy

Quizzes will be given in class as detailed in the Course Schedule section of this document. There is no final exam.

Make-up Policy

Late and made-up assignments will be marked down by 20%. 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

Students will be required to have access to, and use a personal computer with the access to the Internet. A Mac computer is preferred but not required. Students should have personal access to the Internet. Other technologies will be introduced during the course session. UF Canvas Student Help FAQs can be accessed here <https://elearning.ufl.edu/student-help-faqs/>

Course Communications

Students can communicate directly with the Instructor regarding the course material via email.

Electronic communication must demonstrate a formal tone and style, and unless absolutely urgent, will be responded to Mon - Fri 08:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

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

<https://go.ufl.edu/syllabuspolicies>

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.