



Mentored Studies in Sound Design  
(DRAM 7620)  
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF DRAMA

## **DRAM 7620: Mentored Study in Sound Design**

**Meeting Times: TBA**

Room 208B

Instructed by Michael Rasbury

### **OFFICE:**

Michael Rasbury, Room 208B, Culbreth Theatre

Schedule appointments by phone at (434) 982-4542 or by email at [mr2xk@virginia.edu](mailto:mr2xk@virginia.edu).

I check email daily.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

DRAM 7620 is a faculty-guided study in an area of sound design and/or technology not covered in the established curriculum. DRAM 7620 is designed to stimulate understanding of both the aesthetic and technical aspects of sound and sound design.

### **Option 1:**

The first option allows graduate students to customize a plan for study of the process, equipment, and artistry of sound design for the theatre. Given each student's prior knowledge of aspects of sound design for the theatre, each participant's plan of study will be unique. This study is student driven with guidance from the instructor. Student will provide a calendar detailing what will be accomplished each week.

### **Option 2:**

The second option is to participate in the current semester's production as Sound Designer. Option two requires preexisting knowledge of manipulation of sound using the computer and traditional sound equipment. The graduate student will be responsible for analyzing the play, providing a paper design (cue sheets, sample sounds, sound plots, etc.), interfacing with the greater collaboration of designers for the production, and providing a final product complementary to the show.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Binder Notebook

Stereo Headphones with both quarter-inch and eighth-inch adapters (for monitoring)

Students will be responsible for all work regardless of computer failures. A backup is recommended at the end of each class. Various backup methods may be considered including Home Directory Service, USB Flash Drive, etc.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

You should make every effort to be present at each class period. Excused absences are permitted. To receive an excused absence, please notify me before the absence and provide an *official* notification after the absence. ***Each unexcused absence will result in the lowering of your final grade percentage by three (3) percentage points per absence.***

## **SUBMISSIONS:**

### **Options 1 and 2**

Before starting any individual project or a design for production, a design statement must be submitted to me via email at [mr2xk@virginia.edu](mailto:mr2xk@virginia.edu). A design statement is a declaration of purpose and plan for construction of an idea.

### **Option 1:**

Upon completing a project, submit two versions. First, export or “bounce” your mix to the .mp3 format in stereo and email it to [mr2xk@virginia.edu](mailto:mr2xk@virginia.edu) by 8 AM on the due date. Secondly, upload your entire project folder and all its contents to my drop box (more about this in class.)

### **Option 2:**

As sound designer for a University production, it is expected that all paperwork (cue sheets, signal flow diagrams, ground plans, script notes, etc.) be bound together as a portfolio representing the sound design for the given production. Copies of each sound cue reduced to stereo should also be included on CD-R as part of the portfolio. The portfolio should be comprehensive enough for an outside reviewer to understand in lieu of seeing (or hearing) the production. All electronic media should be uploaded to my dropbox.

## **GRADING SCALE:**

*Both options will be graded using a 10 point grading scale.*

### Option 1:

There will be no midterm or final exam. Each project will receive equal percentage of the final possible 100% grade. Student will present calendar of projects and due dates.

### Option 2:

Graduates who commit to the entire process of sound design for a production by observing all production calendar dates, meeting all required deadlines, providing all necessary paperwork (paper design, cue sheets, etc.), providing and/or creating all necessary sound effects, successfully implementing the design and providing the instructor with a complete portfolio of the design will receive an A. Less than 100% effort will result in an F.

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO NOTE:**

**February 1**, Last Day for Adding New Courses, Last Day to Elect the AU (Audit) Option, and Last Day to Change to or from “Credit/No Credit” Option.

**March 2**, Last Day to Drop a Class.

**March 15**, Last Day to Withdraw from a Course.

*Students needing special accommodations are encouraged to discuss the need with the professor as soon as possible.*