



**THE 209/409.001 – Theatre Practicum
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2014**

Instructor: Michael G. Knight, Jr., Assoc. Professor of Theatre Design & Technology

Office Location: PAC rm. 104

Office Hours: by appointment

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COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The purpose of this course is to learn theatre by doing theatre, in any and all of its aspects. Likewise, it is the duty of all of the shop supervisors to teach theatre by careful, structured training. In all cases the particular duties will tie as closely as possible to the production of the shows. When that is not possible, the duties will include routine cleaning and maintenance. We acknowledge that theatre cannot be fully taught in a formal classroom, as every day of every production presents new or unique challenges. The course is therefore about problem solving, skills development, and use of the technology. However, it is also about the more abstract, perhaps more valuable aspects of the theatre, including such things as work ethic, reliability, positive attitude, respect and loyalty to each other and to the production. .

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

MANDATORY: Safety Glasses, work clothes, and closed toed shoes.

RECOMMENDED: Work gloves and earplugs.

(if you do not have these items, you will not be able to work your hours)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Students will learn essential skills (construction, painting, etc.) in the production aspects of Theatre.
2. Students will be associated with production crews and the expectations therein.
3. Students will be acclimated to proper attitude, skills and decorum required when working in a Theatre environment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION (100%):

Participation in course activities (i.e. work assignments and hours) is mandatory for this course. Students found unwilling or unable (through excessive absences), will fail the course.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 - 3.*

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS:

GRADING SCALE: The following grading scale will be used to determine all individual grades as well as the student's overall grade in the course:

A	90%-100%	(Exceptional Quality Work)
B	80%-89%	(Above Average Quality Work)
C	70%-79%	(Average Quality Work)
D	60%-69%	(Below Average Quality Work)
F	0%-59%	(Fails to Meet Acceptable Expectations in Quality of Work)

****Please review this grading scale carefully. Should you have any questions regarding the grading scale or structure, please feel free to ask for clarification.****

ASSESSMENT:

1. Each student will fill out a survey form which indicates skills and interest areas. Whenever practical, you will receive an assignment based on your responses. Students are rotated through the various shops each semester depending on which area needs help at any given time, and to provide the student with a complete and well-rounded theater experience.

2. All Practicum assignments will be posted on the practicum call board which is located next to the graduate offices in the hallway. The production call board is located next to the back stage door across from the graduate offices. It will contain all the necessary information about the on-going production. It is your responsibility to check and read everything on both call boards every day. Information posted by noon on any day is your responsibility by noon the following day. It is imperative that you read the boards every single day as rehearsals and needs of the production can change at a moment's notice.

3. The student will report to the appropriate supervisor, log in, and be ready to work at whatever task is assigned. You will be given an individual time sheet to be kept in your journal. It is your responsibility to fill in the starting and stopping time.

4. The student must be dressed in work clothes, or have work clothes available, even if the normal assignment can be done in nice clothes. You never know what you may be doing on a given day. Work clothes are understood to be those that you don't mind getting messed up, and must include closed-toed shoes, for safety purposes! Students not properly attired for work will be dismissed and receive zero hours for that day.

5. Hours will be totaled each week. If you miss hours due to an unexcused absence, you will not be allowed to make those hours up later. Only an excused absence will be allowed to make up hours. Unexcused missing hours will be subtracted from your final hours at the end of the semester.

6. WORK CALLS: Students will be required to sign in and work at least one or two of the 3 hour time blocks for every extra work call posted. Work call hours cannot be used to make up regular hours. Work call hours are mandatory. Sign-up sheets for work calls will be posted on the practicum call board. If you are assigned to a shop and a work call is made, you must sign for a time in your assigned shop. Failure to work a work call will result in having the hours subtracted from your total hours at the end of the semester

7. STRIKE: Strike is mandatory. Failure to show up for strike will result in failure in the course.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

WORKING EMAIL REQUIREMENT: It is a course expectation that you have a working email address that you check daily. If you have not already acquired an email address through the university or otherwise, please make arrangements to do so before the next class meeting. There may be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

N/A

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at any time during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or its outcomes, please see me after class and set up an appointment time.

Department of Mass Media, Communication and Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamuc.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Students enrolled in this will follow all safety procedures and policies set in place by the local, federal, and university governments.

Attendance Policy: (yes, I said it once already, so let's review)

Regular attendance is required. Attendance in one of my classes means physical as well as mental attendance to the course. If I find you sleeping, texting, reading material not directly related to class, or unwilling to participate in class activities, you will be asked to leave the class.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the undocumented use of other people's intellectual property. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an "F" for the course and will also be directed to the Dean of Students to discuss the event. There are no exceptions to this rule.

UNIVERSITY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

ADA Statement:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library
Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Class Schedule: *schedule is subject to change*

(08.26) PRACTICUM MEETING; 1:30 PM IN THE MAIN THEATRE.
FILL OUT SURVEY FORMS (RESULTS POSTED BY FRIDAY 08.29, 5 PM).

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS:

The BFG (Big Friendly Giant)

by Roald Dahl, adapted by David Wood

directed by Jim Tyler Anderson

produced by the University Playhouse at Texas A&M – Commerce

Public Performances: Oct. 11 at 7:00 p.m., and Oct. 12 at 3 p.m.

******Monday, Oct. 6 (free preview performance for majors/minors)******

*****STRIKE: Oct. 13 & 14 from 1-5*****

Cthulu: A Puppet Play

by Kelly Switzer

directed by Kelly Switzer

produced by the University Playhouse at Texas A&M – Commerce

Public Performances: Nov. 18-22 at 7:00 p.m., and Nov. 23 at 3 p.m.

******Monday, Nov. 17 (free preview performance for majors/minors)******

*****STRIKE: Nov. 24 & 25 from 1-5*****