

TEXAS A&M
UNIVERSITY
COMMERCE

THE 215.001 Technical Theatre
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2014
Location: PAC 126 MWF 10:00-10:50am

Instructor: Kelly D. Switzer, MFA

Office Location: PAC 130

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11am-noon, every other Friday 11am-noon, and by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5319

University Email Address: Kelly.Switzer@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required: *Theatrical Design and Production* by J. Michael Gillette, 7th edition
The Backstage Handbook by Paul Carter, 3rd edition

Other Readings provided in class or through eCollege, see Course Outline/Calendar for specifics.

Materials Required:

- Safety goggles (even if you have glasses)
- Ear Plugs
- Work Gloves
- Adjustable Wrench
- A Calculator (on your phone is fine)
- 3 Chip Brushes

Course Description: Lecture and laboratory in the basic techniques of scenic construction, lighting, painting, drafting, and rigging.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Acquired a basic knowledge of construction tools and materials.
- Acquired basic information regarding the technical theatre world and its major components: scenery, lighting and sound.
- Experienced hands-on training in set construction and stage lighting practices including, in some cases, those used for school productions.
- Learned about and performed tasks required in the care and maintenance of a theatre.
- Developed a sense of team work and mutual respect for individual efforts and will have strengthened interactive and communication skills.
- Learned simple construction and tool usage skills the can be applied to daily living.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Class Participation**

Attendance and participation is vital to a hands-on class like Technical Theatre, you will be expected to participate both as a member of a group and as an individual. Make every possible effort to attend.

2. **Group Projects**

Throughout the semester the class will break into smaller groups for hands-on projects (in the syllabus they are referred to as Workshops). **Ensure your attendance and promptness on these days!** Each person in a group is expected to participate fully and equally. Please come prepared with appropriate tools and/or safety gear.

3. **Chapter Assignments**

The syllabus lays out each chapter we will cover, please note the page numbers. We will not cover all of the chapters, but **do** review the chapters ahead of time—this *especially* includes diagrams and captions.

4. **Tests and Exams**

Throughout the semester there will be tests to assess your knowledge and to prepare you for the final exam. Please note these dates and ***do not be late!*** Bring pens/pencils and paper and prepare to spend the entire class period on the test/exam if necessary.

Rubrics

Equipment Check	25
Tool Use Workshop	50
Cut List Workshop	50
Flat Building Workshop	50
Lighting Hang and Focus Workshop	50
Mold Casting Workshop	50
Scene Painting Workshop	50
Sound Cue Sheet Workshop	50
Knot Workshop	50
Tool Identification Test	100
Scenic Production and Tool Safety Test	100
Lighting Test	100
Sound Test	100
Props and Painting Test	100
Rigging Test	100
Final Exam	200
Final Total	1225

Exceptional work will warrant an	A=90%
Above average work will warrant a	B=80%
Average work will warrant a	C=70%
Below average work will warrant a	D=60%
Unacceptable work will warrant a	F=59% or less

Extra Credit

Extra credit is at the discretion of the professor and will be announced in class and on eCollege.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to check their myLeo accounts on a regular basis for communications about the course. Students will also need to access eCollege regularly for readings and assignment instructions.

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be enhanced by using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My contact information is at the top of this syllabus. If you are having issues with eCollege, please contact Technical Support. Their information is below:

eCollege Student Technical Support (QM 6.6, 7.1) Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on 'Live Support' on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the 'Help' button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to Dropbox, How to post to discussions etc...)

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

- Please do not be late to my class. If you are late, enter as unobtrusively as possible and find the nearest open seat. See me after class.
- I do not allow makeup work, except tests in cases of emergency. I will expect some documentation of this emergency before allowing a makeup test. **You must arrange with me to makeup the test BEFORE I pass the corrected tests back to the class (usually the next class period).**
- Bring your book to class each day, I frequently reference it during lecture.
- If you are tardy please sit in the back (or side) and notify me after class.
- Absences: you are allowed two (2) absences without a penalty. For each subsequent absence your grade will drop by one full letter. The only excused absences are emergency medical, and you must have documentation to be excused. (But still: no makeup work.)
- The attendance and tardiness policy will be strictly adhered to, please keep this in mind.

- Class discussion is encouraged, but please do not speak out of turn and limit private discussions.
- There will be absolutely no text messaging or recreational internet perusing in my classroom.
- Please remain civil to your professor and fellow students.
- There will be **NO food or drink in the Studio Theatre or scene shop** (except water in containers which can be capped).
- Do not use any tools, implements, etc. without permission and supervision of the instructor.
- Clean up your messes.
- *Absolutely no horseplay.*

University Specific Procedures:

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
 Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Gee Library
 Room 132
 Fax (903) 468-8148

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. From the Code of Student Conduct: "Civility in the classroom or online course and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom/online course. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. To create and preserve a learning environment that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning. Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class/online course and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action."

The Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook can be found here:
<http://web.tamuc.edu/studentLife/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>

Academic Honesty:

Students will adhere to the tenets of academic honesty while in this class. Academic dishonesty includes working on non-group projects with others, deception, impersonation, cheating during a test, and plagiarism. These are all offenses that warrant disciplinary action up to, and including, an F in the course. Additionally, any student found guilty of a Breach of Conduct, including Academic Honesty, could face the following disciplinary actions imposed by the University:

- (1) Expulsion from the University. Students may not return to the University.
- (2) Suspension from the University for a definite or indefinite period of time.

- (3) Disciplinary probation with or without loss of designated privileges for a specified period of time. The violation of the terms of disciplinary probation or the infraction of any University rules
- (4) Loss of privileges.
 - a. Denial of the use of an automobile for a designated time (on campus).
 - b. Removal from elective or appointive office.
 - c. Ineligibility for pledging, initiation, and representation of the University.
 - d. Removal from residence hall or other University housing.
 - e. Loss of such other privileges as may be consistent with the offense committed and the rehabilitation of the student.
- (5) Admonition and warning.
- (6) Notification of parents.
- (7) Such other actions as may be approved by the University Discipline Committee or the Dean for Campus Life and Student Development.

Plagiarism is the use of someone else's information without proper and formal citation. Information about avoiding plagiarism can be found here: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Mon.	Aug. 25	Course Orientation, review of course packet Tour of Facilities
Wed.	Aug. 27	Chapter 1: <i>Production Organization and Management</i>
Fri.	Aug. 29	Chapter 4: <i>The Stage and Its Equipment</i>
Mon.	Sept. 1	Labor Day
Wed.	Sept. 3	Chapter 10: <i>Tools and Materials</i> p. 189-200 (Hand Tools) Tool Safety Handout
Fri.	Sept. 5	Continue Chapter 10: <i>Tools and Materials</i> p. 201-208 (Power Tools) p. 229-236 (Hardware) <u>Equipment Check</u>
Mon.	Sept. 8	<u>Tool Use Workshop</u>
Wed.	Sept. 10	<i>Tool Identification Test</i>
Fri.	Sept. 12	Chapter 11: <i>Scenic Production Techniques</i> p. 246-255 (Flats) p. 256-257 (Drops), p. 257-268 (Platforms), p. 268-273 (Stairs and Wagons) p. 274 (Revolves)
Mon.	Sept. 15	How to Build a Flat, <u>Cut List Workshop</u> — <i>bring calculators</i> Shop Math p. 205-231 in <i>Backstage Handbook</i> Parts of a Flat and Nailing Patterns p. 276-278
Wed.	Sept. 17	<u>Flat Building Workshop</u>
Fri.	Sept. 19	Complete <u>Flat Building Workshop</u>
Mon.	Sept. 22	<i>Scenic Production and Tool Safety Test</i>
Wed.	Sept. 24	Chapter 15: <i>Electrical Theory and Practice</i>

Fri.	Sept. 26	Chapter 16: <i>Lighting Production</i> p. 394-402 (Lamps and Parts) Lighting p. 403-418 (Instruments) Lighting p. 418-427 (Dimmers and Connections)
Mon.	Sept. 29	<u>Lighting Hang and Focus Workshop</u>
Wed.	Oct. 1	Complete <u>Lighting Hang and Focus Workshop</u>
Fri.	Oct. 3	Chapter 6 Color Color Mixing p. 172 in <i>Backstage Handbook</i>
Mon.	Oct. 6	Lighting Test
Wed.	Oct. 8	Chapter 13: <i>Stage Properties</i> p. 317-330 (Definition and Organization) p. 330-343 (Craft Techniques)
Fri.	Oct. 10	Backstage Tour of <i>BFE</i>
Mon.	Oct. 13	<u>Mold Casting Workshop</u>
Wed.	Oct. 15	Complete <u>Mold Casting Workshop</u>
Fri.	Oct. 17	Chapter 12: <i>Scene Painting</i> p. 286-296(Equipment) Scene Painting p. 296-315 (Preparation and Painting Techniques)
Mon.	Oct. 20	Scene Painting Demonstration
Wed.	Oct. 22	<u>Scene Painting Workshop</u>
Fri.	Oct. 24	Complete <u>Scene Painting Workshop</u>
Mon.	Oct. 27	Review for Props and Painting Test
Wed.	Oct.29	Props and Painting Test
Fri.	Oct. 31	Chapter 21: <i>Sound Design and Technology</i> p. 523-530 (Basic Acoustics) Sound Design p. 530-539 (Sound Systems)
Mon.	Nov. 3	Sound Design p. 539-551 (performance)
Wed.	Nov. 5	<u>Sound Cue Sheet Workshop</u>
Fri.	Nov. 7	Complete <u>Sound Cue Sheet Workshop</u>
Mon.	Nov. 10	Audacity Demonstration
Wed.	Nov. 12	Sound Test
Fri.	Nov. 14	Counterweight System p. 264-267 in <i>Backstage Handbook</i> Knots p. 87-98 Wires p. 104-107
Mon.	Nov. 17	<u>Knot Workshop</u> <i>The Directory of Knots</i> handout

Wed.	Nov. 19	Complete <u>Knot Workshop</u>
Fri.	Nov. 21	Backstage tour of <i>Cthulhu</i>
Mon.	Nov. 24	Rigging Test
Wed.	Nov. 26	TBA
Fri.	Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon.	Dec. 1	Final Review
Wed.	Dec. 3	Question/Study Day
Fri.	Dec. 5	Final Exam

Final Exam: TBA

updated:8/20/2014