



**THE 550.001 – Theatrical Design
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

Textbook(s) Required:

**The Skeptical Scenographer: Essays on Theatrical Design and Human Nature
By Beeb Salzer**

Course Description: A lecture based course in theatre design stressing the role of the designer as part of a creative interpretive team, expressing style, genre, and functional needs of the stage setting. Also the discussion of how design styles and designers have impacted the theatre design area.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Display a learned knowledge of a variety of design techniques, applications, and designers.
2. Be able to articulate fully a conceptual design idea.
3. Synthesize academic research into cohesive scholarly writing and oral presentation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments (Tentative):

PARTICIPATION (20%):

Participation in topical discussions, plays, presentations, and course work is required. Students will be expected to actively, and intelligently, participate in all discussions. Participation and attendance in this course is defined as both physical and mental. 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. The attendance and participation portion of your grades will be calculated after each class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 2.*

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN IDEA (20%): This is to be a five page (full pages) essay in which you clearly state your own criteria for evaluating a work of art and use your observations from either *The BFG* or *Cthulu: A Puppet Play* as illustrations to support your views. This is not an open letter on the quality of the productions, not is it a comparison of the two productions. This paper is intended to be an introspective look at how you, the artist/critic, view art. A more detailed look at this project will be discussed in class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 2.*

RESEARCH PAPER (30%): You will be required to write a scholarly research paper on a topic of your choosing (within the given parameters). You will have to meet with Mr. Knight (at a predetermined appointment time) to discuss what topic you would like to research. This paper is to be written in MLA format. It must be cited. A more detailed look at this project will be discussed in class.

**Measures Course Learning Outcomes 1 and 3.*

EXAMINATION (30%): There will be one essay-based examination in this course at the end of the semester, during the final exam week (notated on the calendar).

**Measures Course Learning Outcome 1.*

Grading:

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.****

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*

- WEEK 1: Introduction to Course/Introduction to Dramatic Theory:
 The design idea and concept. What does design mean to you?
 OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH PAPER REQUIREMENTS
 DRAW FOR PRESENTATION TOPICS ON THIS DAY!
- WEEK 2: Design Styles
 SIGN UP FOR RESEARCH PAPER ADVISEMENT APPOINTMENTS!
- WEEK 3: Design Styles
 MEET AT YOUR APPOINTMENT TIME TO DISCUSS RESEARCH TOPICS THIS WEEK!
 PRESENTATION #1 _____ / _____
- WEEK 4: Design Styles
 PRESENTATION #2 _____ / _____
 CONCEPTUAL DESIGN ESSAYS ARE DUE ON THIS DAY!
- WEEK 5: Design Styles
 PRESENTATION #3 _____ / _____
 PRESENTATION #4 _____ / _____
- WEEK 6: Design Styles
 PRESENTATION #5 _____ / _____
 RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE ON THIS DAY!
- WEEK 7: FINAL EXAM (12.08) 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM