



**THE 312: Theatrical Design
 COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015
 MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.
 PERFORMING ARTS #100**

Instructor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104
Office Hours: M/W 2 p.m. – 3 p.m., T/R 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. or by appointment
Office Phone: 903-468-3194
University Email Address: Casey.Watkins@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

All plays/written material will be provided by the instructor

Required Materials:

Drawing pencil set
 Pencil sharpener
 Eraser
 Scissors
 Sketchbook- 9x12
 Charcoal
 Watercolor pencil set
 Watercolor paper- 9x12 or 11x14
 Paintbrushes
 Cup for paint water
 Other misc. supplies as needed (we will discuss in class)

Required Viewing:

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

Directed by Kelsey Cooper
 Produced in the Main Stage Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
 October 20-24 at 8 p.m. and October 25 at 3 p.m.

Calling All

Directed by Lauren Simpson
 Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
 November 17-21 at 8 p.m. and November 22 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available for a nominal fee from the University Playhouse Box Office (PAC 101) from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on weekdays. Or, you may make advance reservations by phone at any time by calling 903-886-5900 or by email at playhouseboxoffice@tamuc.edu.

Course Description:

An introduction to the principles and elements of design and their relation to design in the Theatre. The student will learn how to communicate design choices both visually and verbally.

Course Ethics and Attendance: *Note that attendance alone does not constitute participation.*

Promptness, attendance, and PARTICIPATION are valued in this class. Please behave accordingly and do not disrupt the class with excessive talk or the use of cell phones or other devices. **A willingness to “put yourself and your artistic work out there” is most appreciated.** It is assumed that students will work cooperatively with one another and all work that is not “original” will be properly credited. See the TAMUC *Student’s Guide Handbook* for more information on plagiarism. This is a serious offense that can result in separation from the university. **EVEN if not specifically noted on instructions or prompts for each assignment, plagiarism policies will be strictly enforced.**

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

1. Develop knowledge of the theory and skill in the practice of theatrical design.
2. Explore and develop personal artistic skills/styles and conceptual thinking through research and projects.
3. Understand the relationship between the theatrical designer and other theatre professionals, i.e., the director, fellow designers, shop personnel and actors.
4. Establish an overall appreciation for the design and production of theatre.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

In-Class Exercises As stated above, attendance does not constitute participation. We will conduct in-class exercises almost every day. These exercises are used to focus your attention on the material offered in the course and are hands-on, interactive methods to explore the material. You **MUST** be present and you **MUST** participate to receive credit.

COURSE EVALUATION: The course evaluation will be determined by the student’s attendance and performance in class and on assignments, tests and projects.

GRADING SCALE:

900-1000	=	A
800-899	=	B
700-799	=	C
600-699	=	D
500-599	=	F

GRADING GUIDELINES-

Response paper #1	<i>25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee</i>	45 points
Response paper #2	<i>Calling All</i>	45 points
Projects #1 thru 7	each 30 points	210 points
Project #8	Costume Design	100 points
Project #9	Scenic Design	100 points
Project #10	Lighting Design	100 points
Class participation		150 points
Sketchbook		100 points
Final Project		150 points
TOTAL		1000 points

PROJECT GRADING GUIDELINES

30% Accuracy and validity of designs based on information taught in class and backed up by research.

30% Consistency and development of ideas

20% Rendering techniques, harmony with design concepts and character analysis.

20% Paperwork including (as appropriate) play analysis, character analysis, research materials, drawings or sketches and other art work.

DESIGN RESPONSES- a portion of a class period following the closing of each show will be devoted to an oral response by the students. Each student will be required to participate in a class discussion to evaluate and respond to the designs of that show using the information covered in the lectures. A response paper, minimum 2 pages, will be handed in during that class period.

REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN WORK

All written work handed in **MUST BE TYPEWRITTEN**. NO hand written work will be accepted. Papers should be done in Arial or Calibri, (Times New Roman is icky) size 12, and 1 ½ spaced. No papers will be accepted that do not follow this guideline.

SKETCHBOOK -100 points

Throughout the semester you will be responsible to **FILL** the pages of an 9x12 sketch book with outside thumbnail sketches. Sketch unique fashions worn by everyday people on the street, at the coffee shop, on campus, in store windows, wherever you see interesting clothing choices. Sketch everyday items in your room or outside. Add lighting highlights and shadows.

Throw in some color, texture, collage and design elements, anything inspirational or interesting. Fill both sides of the pages! NOT one sketch per page! To be submitted throughout the semester as scheduled. (See supplies list)

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 WILL be times that I need to contact you with important information and email is often the speediest and easiest way of doing so. Additionally, I will provide electronic copies of the plays and any supplemental reading through eCollege and/or email.

WRITTEN WORK: Unfortunately, papers/projects do occasionally get lost. Please, for your sanity, save your work on a thumb drive, etc. Do not depend on your paper staying on the hard drive of any university computer, as it will be deleted, altered, or worse – turned in by someone else as their work! Be aware that it is a course expectation that you keep copies of your assignments until you receive your final grade for the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Contacting Me:

Please feel free to visit me during my office hours at any time during the semester. I am here to help! If you can't make my office hours due to a scheduling conflict, please set up an appointment with me. Don't be a stranger. If something is occurring that is presenting you with difficulties in this class, let me know. I cannot help you if I don't know what is going on. The easiest and most reliable way to contact me is **via email**. Please do not leave a message for me in the main department office.

Student Resources:

Department of Theatre

Performing Arts Center (PAC) #101

Phone: 903-886-5346 (Main Office)

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/mmct/default.asp>

Communication Skills Center

Hall of Languages #103

<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/index.htm>

TAMUC Counseling Center
Student Services Building Room 204
Phone: 903-886-5145

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy:

You may accumulate three (3) absences before any penalty occurs. **There are no additional absences allowed without penalty. Plan accordingly. There is no such thing as an “excused” absence.** Of course, if you have a prolonged illness or injury, or if a family emergency arises, speak with your instructor ASAP.

Grades will be dropped in ½ letter grade increments for every two class absences beyond three. (Example: Someone with an “A” average who misses class five times will be in the “A-” range; a seventh absence moves that student down into the “B+” range and so on...)

Late Arrivals:

To further foster a high level of commitment—and because the work we will be doing this semester will involve intensive focus—the class will adopt the following late entry policy. Students must be on time for every class. Entering a class late or leaving early is disruptive to the flow of the class and indicative of a less than disciplined/committed student. Please be on time out of consideration to your learning process and the processes of others. If you arrive within the ten minute grace period, please do so discretely in order to avoid disrupting the class activities/discussions. *It is your responsibility to make sure that you find me after class and document your late attendance for the day—otherwise, your initial marked absence documented during roll will remain.* Also, you are expected to stay until you are dismissed from class. **Two late arrivals (within the ten-minute grace period) or early departures (or any combination of the two) may be counted as one absence in the class.**

Cell Phones and Laptops:

Please turn off all cell phones upon entering the classroom. Please do not check messages or engage in text messaging during class. This is disruptive to the flow of the course. Further, you are welcome to take class notes on a laptop or other electronic device. However, these devices should only be used for taking notes and researching over the current discussions/activities – and you must type very quietly and turn off all sound so as not to disturb other class members. If I suspect that laptops are being used for other purposes, I will ban them from the classroom.

Late Work:

I do not accept late work.

Extra Credit:

The instructor reserves the right to offer extra-credit to all students, and to gauge its application appropriately and uniformly for all.

Incompletes:

Under normal circumstances, an Incomplete (I or X) will NOT be given for a final grade in this course. Per University policy, students who **because of circumstances beyond their control** are unable to attend classes will, upon approval of their instructor, receive a mark of X (incomplete) in all courses in which they were **maintaining passing grades at the time of the request** for an incomplete.

University Specific Policies and Procedures:**Academic Dishonesty:**

This course adheres strictly to the college's guidelines for Academic Dishonesty printed in the *Student's Guide Handbook*. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another's work or ideas as your own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. All work must be new and created for this class during this semester by you. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the definition of Academic Dishonesty at Texas A&M-Commerce. If such an instance occurs, the student will receive an automatic zero for the work in question, and I will immediately report the incident to the Head of the Department. (*You should be aware that this could result in dismissal from school without credit for the semester.*)

Students with a Disability:

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

Gege Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

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

Please note:

Readings and assignments are due on the days on which they are listed below. There are no “make-ups” for IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES.

You should bring your pencils and sketchbook to class every day.

M Aug 31 Intro to Course

W Sept 2 What is Design?
 Read The Bear by Chekov

Thursday, Sept. 3rd- Last day to ADD a class without instructor permission

F Sept. 4 Script analysis

M Sept. 7 **LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES**
Monday, September 7- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 80% REFUND

W Sept. 9 Character analysis
 Sketchbook check

F Sept. 11 Analysis activity

M Sept. 14 **Script analysis project due**
 Theatrical design

Monday, September 14- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 70% REFUND

W Sept. 16 Research

**Wednesday, September 16- CENSUS DAY
LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH REFUND**

F Sept. 18 Research

M. Sept. 21 **Research project due**

Design Elements: Color

*Start bringing colored pencils/charcoal/pastels and watercolor paper,
brushes and water cup.*

Monday, September 21- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 50% REFUND

W. Sept. 23 Design elements: Color

F. Sept. 25 Design elements: Line and shape

M. Sept. 28 Design elements: Texture

Monday, September 28- LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH 25% REFUND

W. Sept. 30 Design Elements

F Oct. 2 **DESIGN ELEMENTS PROJECT DUE**

Design principles

M Oct. 5 Design Principles

Sketchbook check

W Oct. 7 Media

F Oct. 9 Media

M. Oct. 12 Media

W. Oct. 14 **Elemental Project Due**
Media

F. Oct. 16 Collaboration

M. Oct. 19 Vision, Concept and Design

DoT Production ...*Spelling Bee* October 20-25

W. Oct. 21 **Concept Board Project Due**
Sound Design

F. Oct. 23 Sound Design

M. Oct. 26 **Sound design project Due**
Costume design
Discuss ...*Spelling Bee* (production)

W. Oct. 28 Costume design: drawing

F. Oct. 30 **Spelling Bee papers due**
Costume design work day

M. Nov. 2 Costume design Work day

W. Nov. 4 **Costume Design Projects Due**

Thursday, Nov. 5 - LAST DAY TO DROP A CLASS WITH Q GRADE

F. Nov. 6	Scenic Design
M. Nov. 9	Drafting Sketchbook check
W. Nov. 11	Scenic design work day
F. Nov. 13	Scenic Design Work Day
M. Nov. 16	Scenic Design Project Due

DoT Production *Calling All* November 17-22

W Nov. 18	Lighting Design
F Nov. 20	Lighting Design
M Nov. 23	Lighting design work day <i>Read Oedipus over Thanksgiving</i>
W & F Nov. 25 – 27	NO CLASS-HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
M Nov. 30	Lighting design Work day
W Dec. 1	<i>Calling All Papers DUE</i> LIGHTING DESIGN PROJECT DUE
F Dec. 3	Discussion of <i>Oedipus</i>
M Dec. 7	Final Project work day Sketchbook check

W Dec. 9 Final project work day

F Dec. 11 Final project work day

The Final Exam Period for this class is scheduled for Monday, December 14th from 10:30 am-12:30 pm

PROJECT GUIDELINES

Project #1- Script analysis and character analysis for the play ***The Bear***

Project #2- Research for ***The Bear***

Project #3- Design elements project.

Project #4- Design interpretation project.

Project #5- Concept board project for ***The Bear***

Response paper to 25th *Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*

Project #6- Sound Design project

Response paper to *Calling All*

Project #8- Costume Project for ***The Bear***

Project #9- Scenic Project for ***The Bear***

Project 10- Lighting Project for ***The Bear***

Final Project Presentation for ***Oedipus***

