



**THE 550-002: Theatrical Design
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2015
Monday 9 am to 4 pm
PERFORMING ARTS #112**

Instructor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre
Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104
Office Hours: Wed 10-12 and Thursday 10-12
Office Phone: 903-886-5339
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COURSE INFORMATION

All plays/written material will be provided by the instructor

Required Materials:

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

Course Description:

A graduate level 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 as well as techniques for design pedagogy.

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 as well as collaborate with other designers.
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-

Design History paper # 1	100 points
Design History paper # 2	100 points
Projects #1 thru 4 each 50 points	200 points

Project #5 Costume Design	100 points
Project #6 Scenic Design	100 points
Project #7 Lighting Design	100 points
Project #8 Sound Design	80 points
Participation	60 points
Final Project/paper	160 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 HISTORY RESPONSES- The student will be expected to write two separate 5 page research and analysis papers on a specific aspect of design history. These subjects can range from specific designers to assorted theatrical traditions and cultures.

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. Please follow MLA format with appropriate internal documentation. **CITE YOUR SOURCES!!!!** No papers will be accepted that do not follow this guideline.

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

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance Policy:

As this is a graduate level class that is only meeting 4 times, you will be expected to come to every class. **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.

The instructor reserves the right to penalize any students who miss class accordingly. Because of the pace of the class and the time we have, it will be nearly impossible to make up any work or play catch up. Please plan accordingly.

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.

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

Gee Library 132

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.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, sketchbook and any specified supplies to class every day.

M June 6

Morning	Intro to Course Design Theory Intro Elements of Design Principles of Design
Afternoon	Go over <i>The Bear</i> Script Analysis Concept Design Research Assign first paper topic

M June 13

Analysis, research and concept due. Elements of design project due.

Morning	Media Scenic Design Sound Design
Afternoon	Lighting Design Costume Design Assign second paper topic

M June 20

Scenic and sound design project due. First paper due.

Morning	Present projects Design pedagogy
Afternoon	Work on projects Discuss <i>Oedipus</i> and final

M June 27

Costume and lighting design project due. Second paper due.

Morning	Present projects
Afternoon	Work on <i>Oedipus</i>

M July 4 NO CLASS

There will be no final exam meeting for this class.

Your final project will be due by email on July 5th.

PROJECT LIST

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

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

Project #3- Concept board project for ***The Bear***

Project #4- Design elements project.

Project #5- Sound Design project

Project #6- Costume Project for **The Bear**

Project #7- Scenic Project for **The Bear**

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

Final Project for ***Oedipus***