



**THE 495: Senior Project  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2017**

**Instructor: Casey Watkins, MFA, Assistant Professor of Theatre**

**Office Location: Performing Arts Center #104**

**Office Hours: M/W 10-11am T/Th 10-12 or by appointment**

**Office Phone: 903-468-3194**

**University Email Address: Casey.Watkins@tamuc.edu**

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| <b>COURSE INFORMATION</b> |
|---------------------------|

**Course Description:**

The purpose of the senior project is to create a specific project that has applications within theatrical design and practical design skills, creating a capstone product that includes in depth research, application and skill.

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

Promptness, attendance, and “attentiveness” 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 “give theatre and its many forms a chance” 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) Become a more informed, critical theatre practitioner
- 2) Gain a basic understanding of the elements of theatrical design
- 3) Learn to evaluate and interpret the artistic quality of a product they create
- 4) Gain appreciation of how theatrical design reflects the people and cultures that produce them.
- 5) Improve and cultivate personal artistic and practical skills

|                            |
|----------------------------|
| <b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b> |
|----------------------------|

**Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:**

The student will be graded on participation, effort, improvement and overall artistic and academic success.

This course requires artistic effort and supplies, as drawing, painting and rendering will be a large part of the projects.

**Grading System and Scale**

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Participation       | 300 points         |
| First project       | 100 points         |
| Second project      | 100 points         |
| Third project       | 100 points         |
| Patterning project  | 100 points         |
| Draping project     | 100 points         |
| Final project       | 200 points         |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS</b> | <b>1000 points</b> |

**A grade of "A" will not be assigned to any individual who has not completed ALL outside of class assignments.** Attendance at Departmental Productions is required and if not attended students will drop a letter grade regardless of average.

**Required Supplies:**

9x12 or 10x14 Sketchbook

9x12 or 10x14 Watercolor paper pad

Drawing pencils

Eraser

Colored pencils (can be watercolor pencils)

Water color paints (not needed immediately, I will show you options)

Watercolor brushes

Other media (if preferred, such as markers, pastels, inks)

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| <b>TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS</b> |
|--------------------------------|

**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. It is not an imposition. 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**. I check it almost constantly. 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

### **Attendance Policy:**

This class, being a special independent study class, will only be meeting once a week during the time determined by the instructor and students. This agreed upon time will be seen as a

normal class time. Since this is specialized instruction that occurs only once a week, it is expected that students attend every class. If you are unable to attend class due to serious illness or some other emergency, please notify the instructor as soon as possible. All work will be expected to be turned in in a timely manner even in the case of an absence.

### **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. I will be showing many different demonstrations at the beginning of class, so if you are late, you will miss information essential for the rest of the course.

### **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 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](mailto: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*).

### **Campus Concealed Carry Statement**

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus <<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>> document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web

[url:http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf](http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf)

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.