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## **THEA 515 001, Scenic Design**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2021

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Instructor: Cade M. Sikora  
Office Location: PAC 103  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Office Phone: 903.886.5338  
Office Fax: Who faxes anymore?  
University Email Address: Cade.Sikora@tamus.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: **email**  
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

#### **Materials Required**

Architect's Scale Rule  
Black Foamcore (as needed)  
18" Straight Edge (or larger)  
White Bristol Board or Matboard (as needed)  
Drafting supplies: either digital (CAD) or traditional (pencils, eraser, triangle, tape)  
X-acto Knife & Blades  
Cutting Mat (12"x18" or larger)  
Sketch Pad, 9"x12"  
Scissors, Glue, Craft Supplies (as needed)

#### **Textbook(s) Required**

*Reckless* by Craig Lucas  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

[isbn.nu/9780822209379](https://www.isbn.nu/9780822209379)  
[isbn.nu/9780822208389](https://www.isbn.nu/9780822208389)

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### **Technology Required and Recommended**

In addition to a computer to access course materials, students will need access to a printer to print out blank ground plans and select paperwork with they will fill out for their final project. Alternatively, students can use an AutoCAD or Vectorworks program to do this (but that is expensive).

Students will also need access to a camera to take pictures of their model box, rough model, and finished model for the final project.

Students may wish to utilize a webcam (or similar) to partake in group meetings and check-ins with the Instructor to receive feedback as they progress through the course. Additionally, a webcam may be used to record students' final presentations if desired.

## **Course Description**

**Student Learning Outcomes** At the completion of this course, students will have an advanced understanding of:

1. Conceptualizing multiple conceits for multi-scene plays with complex themes
2. The scene design process [script analysis, research, drawing/drafting, model-making] for complex, multi-scene plays with complex themes
3. Model making techniques (physical or digital)
4. Presentation skills and strategies
5. Students will also be challenged with analyzing scripts and conceptualizing designs rapidly

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Skills**

While minimal technical skills are required for this class, students will need to be able to use basic crafting tools like scissors and glue sticks, and intermediate tools such as X-acto knives.

### **Instructional Methods**

Students will learn through virtual lectures which will be posted periodically, readings, and projects. A semi-regular group meeting time to discuss topics, questions, and concerns will be scheduled if possible.

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course.**

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

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- B = 80%-89%
- C = 70%-79%
- D = 60%-69%
- F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

- A = 90 - 100 Points
- B = 80 - 89 Points
- C = 70 - 79 Points
- D = 60 - 69 Points
- F = 59 & > Points

Weekly Quizzes (4 @ 5pts eac).....	20 pts
Reading Responses (3 @ 5pts each) .....	15 pts
Reading Concepts / Research (3 @ 5pts each) .....	15 pts
<b>FINAL PROJECT:</b>	
Revised Show Concept / Research Project.....	10 pts
Scenic Paperwork .....	10 pts
Sketches/Renderings .....	10 pts
Ground Plan(s) .....	10 pts
<u>Final Model.....</u>	<u>10 pts</u>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>100pts</b>

### Assessments

1. The first four weeks of class will contain readings and presentations of theatre terms, scenic term, etc. Each week will contain a short D2L quiz reviewing the pertinent information.
2. Following the reading of each play, students will write a 1-2 page response to the script, noting themes, scenic needs, specific challenges, etc. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.
3. For each of the three scripts we will read, students will build a short presentation (5-10 slides) containing inspiration, research, and ideas for *three* different design concepts they *could* approach the scripts with (three concepts for each scripts).
4. Students will build an empty model of a proscenium space. The Instructor will offer a tutorial video on how to build this with students can follow along with at home. Since this class is virtual, students will be evaluated on completeness of the finished model and the tidiness of the final product, not necessarily on how polished it is.
5. After selecting from the three plays to design for, students will select one of their earlier concepts to expand upon and submit a revised concept/research presentation.
6. Students create paperwork apropos of the scenic design process. Items will include a revised scenic analysis and breakdown, paperwork noting scene changes/scene shifts and any other relevant paperwork as discussed in class. Evaluation will be based on completeness and thoroughness.

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7. Students will create sketches/renderings of their proposed scenic designs. These do not need to be exact, or precise, but are an exercise in experimenting with ideas. The sketch does not need to be exact or precise, but should clearly indicate a scenic environment in a theatre. Include a sketch for each "look" of the show (if your show has multiple scenes/locations or many major scenic changes). Digital sketches/paintings/renderings are acceptable.
8. Students will build a rough, compositional model (physical or virtual) of their scenic design, document it, and upload that documentation to D2L. Evaluation will be based on completeness and general effectiveness of design as they work toward a finished piece.
9. From your sketches and in conjunction with your models, draw a rough ground plan of your design idea. The instructor will provide the template and some tools/advice for getting started. Ground Plans must include all relevant details/objects (ie, masking, major scenic elements, furniture, etc). Evaluation will be based on clarity and use of resources (cough, Did you use a scale ruler?).
10. Students will create a finished ground plan based on their rough models and sketches from previous assignments.
11. Students will create a finished model box and present documentation as their final design. Evaluation will be based on overall completeness, communication of the design, effectiveness of the design, and consideration of previous feedback.

Please note that more information and resources for these assignments and projects will be available online and/or in class when the assignments are given. Because this course is online and not blended, all assignments must be submitted online to LMS by the designated time; there will be no general exceptions without prior approval of the instructor. Also note that the five (5) projects which create the Final Project are all due together at the end of the semester. There are no staggered due dates and students are responsible for keeping pace to ensure that these materials are completed on time. We will discuss the topic of each assignment in class in different weeks and students are encouraged to work at the same pace as the lectures and should feel free to submit preliminary examples of materials to the Instructor (ie, preliminary paperwork, pictures of the rough model) ahead of time to receive the Instructor's feedback. **ALL ASSIGNMENTS AND PROJECTS ARE DUE ONLINE BY 9:00AM OF THE DUE DAY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

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LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

## **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. Before contacting your Instructor, double check the syllabus and relevant course materials to be sure that your question has not already been answered. When contacting your Instructor, be clear and concise about your questions, observations, and or concerns.

### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### **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 feel free to reach out to me. I am always available by email and will make every effort to respond within 24 hours of receiving your email.

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# COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

## Course Specific Procedures/Policies

**Late Work:** I do not accept late work.

**Extra Credit:** Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

**Be resourceful:** Times are wild right now and sometimes things are not going to work the way we plan, even if we have tried the plan before. If life throws you a curveball that affects your work in this class, do not despair; think outside the box. Do not feel limited by the way you might be expected to do things; if you have a great idea for how to accomplish something, try it.

## Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## University Specific Procedures

### Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

### TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

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[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **Students with Disabilities-- 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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### **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

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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](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<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.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)

### **Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content**

#### **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

<b>Wk</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
1	Aug 30	Theatre Architecture	<b>Week 1 Quiz due by Sep 3</b>
2	Sept 6	Theatrical Scenery	<b>Week 2 Quiz due by Sep 10</b>
3	Sept 13	Hardware/Tools	<b>Week 3 Quiz due by Sep 17</b>
4	Sept 20	What is Design?	<b>Week 4 Quiz due by Sep 24</b>
5	Sept 27	Script Analysis/ Paperwork/ Concepts	
<b>AROUND WEEK 6, START WORKING AHEAD</b>			
6	Oct 4	Model-making	<b>Empty Model box due by October 11</b>

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7	Oct 11	<i>Reckless</i>	<b>Reckless Response and Concepts due by Oct 11</b>
8	Oct 18	<i>OMaM</i>	<b>Of Mice and Men Response and Concepts due Oct 18</b>
	Oct 19	<i>The Addams Family Musical opens</i>	
9	Oct 25	<i>The Grown-Up</i>	<b>The Grown-Up Response and Concepts due Oct 25 Choose what show to design for Final Project</b>
10	Nov 1		<b>Revised Show Concept Due Nov 1</b>
11	Nov 8		<b>Scenic Paperwork Due Nov 8</b>
12	Nov 15 Nov 16	<i>In the West opens</i>	<b>Rough Model / Sketches Due Nov 15</b>
13	Nov 22		<b>Enjoy your break</b>
14	Nov 29		<b>Ground Plan(s) Due Nov 29</b>
15	Dec 6		<b>Final Design Package and Presentations due by Dec 10</b>

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