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## **THEA 366 001, Scene Design I**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2022

### **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@tamuc.edu  
Preferred Form of Communication: email  
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

The regular meeting/lecture portion of this course takes place MW 11:00-12:15.

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**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

*The Whale* by Samuel Hunter  
*Picasso at the Lapin Agile* by Steve Martin  
*Bouncers* by John Godber

[isbn.nu/9780573701665](https://isbn.nu/9780573701665)  
[isbn.nu/9780573695643](https://isbn.nu/9780573695643)  
[isbn.nu/9780822201380](https://isbn.nu/9780822201380)

## **Viewing Required**

### **Night Sky**

Directed by Kylie Towne  
Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce  
October 11-16

### **Dragons Love Tacos**

Directed by Dr. Carrie Klypchak  
Produced in the Main Stage Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M  
Commerce  
December 6-11

## **Software Required**

Presentation-making software (IE PowerPoint, Prezi, etc)

Optional Texts and/or Materials

*An Introduction to Theatre Design*. Di Benedetto, Stephen. [isbn.nu/9780415547543](https://isbn.nu/9780415547543)

## **Course Description**

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

1. The scene design process [script analysis, research, drawing/drafting, model-making]
2. Model making techniques
3. Presentation skills and strategies
4. The typical production process and the members of the production team

## **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 Xacto knives.

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## Instructional Methods

Students will learn through lectures, readings, discussions, projects, and by attending theatre productions.

## 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%
- 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

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade.

Example:

Reading Responses (3 @ 5pts each) .....	15 pts
Model Box .....	5 pts
Production Responses (2 @ 5pts each).....	10 pts
Midterm Quiz.....	10 pts
Show Concept / Research Project .....	15 pts
Rough Model.....	10 pts
Prelim Drawings .....	5 pts
Final Drawings .....	10 pts
<u>Final Model and Design presentations .....</u>	<u>20 pts</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100pts</b>

### Assessments

1. Following the reading of each play, students will write a 1-2 page response to the script, noting themes, scenic needs, specific challenges, etc. These topics will be discussed in class. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.

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2. Students will construct a model box of our proscenium space to use for their final project. They will be evaluated on stability, cleanness, and the general construction of the box.
3. Following attendance of the department's productions, students will write a 1-2 page response to the productions, noting their impressions, how the design and technical elements supported the production, whether the designs were successful, etc. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.
4. The midterm quiz will focus primarily on vocabulary and technical information about theatrical spaces, scenic techniques, etc. It will not be about the play scripts to be read for class, nor will it be about the productions we will see for class.
5. After having read the three scripts required for the class, students will select a script to create a full design for and will present a scenic concept and research to the class.
6. Using skills from in-class activities and based on their research, students will build a rough model of their scenic design and present it to the class in an informal presentation. Evaluation will be based on completeness and general effectiveness of design as they work toward a finished piece.
7. Students will create a preliminary scale ground plan and front view sketch of their design. Evaluation will be based on completeness and general effectiveness of the design as they work toward a finished piece.
8. Considering feedback from previous projects, students will create a finished ground plan, front view sketch, and model box and present these to the class 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.

## **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>

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:

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<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

## **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:

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

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

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<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>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Activity</b>	<b>Assignment Due</b>
Mon Aug 29	Intro /Syllabus / Theatre Spaces	
Wed Aug 31	Intro to Design / Elements of Design	
Mon Sept 5	<b>No Class</b> - Labor Day	
Wed Sept 7	Script Analysis/Concept	
Mon Sept 12	Discussion	<b>The Whale Response Due</b>
Wed Sept 14	Spaces tour/discussion	
Mon Sept 19	Model-Making Intro / Design Activity	Bring model-making stuff
Wed. Sept 21	Design Activity / Model Theatre	Bring model-making stuff
Mon Sept 26	Discussion	<b>Picasso/LA Response Due</b>
Wed Sept 28	Models Workday	Bring model-making stuff
Mon Oct 3	Materials / Structures	
Wed Oct 5	Materials / Structures	

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Mon	Oct 10	Discussion	<b>Bouncers Response Due</b>
	<b>Oct 11</b>	<i>Night Sky opens</i>	
Wed	Oct 12	Night Sky walk-thru / Intro to Final Project / Research	
Mon	Oct 17	Midterm	<b>Select Script to Design</b>
Wed	Oct 19	Research Presentations	<b>Research Project Due</b>
			<b>Night Sky Response Due</b>
Mon	Oct 24	Presentations Pt II / 3D Sketching	Bring Sketching materials
Wed	Oct 26	3D Sketching Work Day	
Mon	Oct 31	Drawing / Drafting	Bring Drafting Supplies
Wed	Nov 2	Drawing / Drafting Work Day	
Mon	Nov 7	Color Renderings	<b>Prelim Drafting / Sketches Due</b>
Wed	Nov 9	Color Renderings Work Day	
Mon	Nov 14	Review Final Project Reqs	
Wed	Nov 16	Work Day	
Mon	Nov 21	Work Day	<b>Color Renderings Due</b>
Wed	Nov 23	<b>No Class</b> – Thanksgiving Break	
Mon	Nov 28	Work Day	Bring model-making stuff
Wed	Nov 30	Presentations	<b>Preliminary Design Due</b>
Mon	Dec 5	Desk Critiques	Bring design work
	<b>Dec 6</b>	<i>Dragons Love Tacos opens</i>	Bring design work
Wed	Dec 7	Desk Critiques / DLT Set walk-thru	
			<b>Dragons Love Tacos Response Due</b>
<b>Wed</b>	<b>Dec 14</b>	<b>Final Exam from 10:30-12:30</b>	<b>Final Design Package Due</b>

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