



THEA 515 001, Scenic Design

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2021

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Cade M. Sikora
Office Location: PAC 103
Office Hours: M/W 10-12:00
Office Phone: 903.886.5338
Office Fax: Who faxes anymore?
University Email Address: Cade.Sikora@tamus.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: e-mail
Communication Response Time: M-F 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
Grown-Up by Jordan Harrison

[isbn.nu/9780822209379](https://www.isbn.nu/9780822209379)
[isbn.nu/9780822208389](https://www.isbn.nu/9780822208389)
[isbn.nu/9780573705199](https://www.isbn.nu/9780573705199)

Recommended Viewing:

A Year with Frog and Toad

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Directed by Jackie Rosenfeld
Produced in the Main Stage by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
October 10-14 at 7:30pm, October 15 at 3:00pm

Thanksgiving Play

Directed by Angela Vaughn
Produced in the Studio Theatre by the University Playhouse at A&M Commerce
November 14-18 at 7:30pm, November 19 at 3:00pm

Our ticketing is done entirely through Eventbrite. Our page is located at <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/dept-of-theatre-texas-aampm-university-commerce-34067403123>, and we can be found via the Eventbrite app as well. You can follow our Eventbrite page for immediate updates when tickets go on sale.

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.

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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%
- 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

Reading Responses (3 @ 5pts each)	15 pts
Show Research Project and Rough Model (3 @ 5pts each)	15 pts
Rough Models (3 @ 5pts each).....	15 pts
FINAL PROJECT:	
Show Concept / Research Project	10 pts
Scenic Paperwork	10 pts
Ground Plan(s).....	10 pts
Final Model.....	10 pts
<u>Final Presentations.....</u>	<u>15 pts</u>
Total.....	100pts

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. A double-spaced format akin to MLA is required.
2. Students will build a rough model of the Main Stage 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

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and not necessarily on the cleanness or how polished it is. It just needs to approximate the mainstage.

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 script).
4. Students will use their model box to create rough models of designs for each of the three shows read in class, choosing one of their researched concepts as a starting point.
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 complete scenic concept and research to the class.
6. After selecting a play to design for, students will create and submit paperwork apropos of the scenic design process. Items will include an in-depth 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.
7. Students will build a rough model (physical or virtual) 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.
8. Students will create a finished ground plan, 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. 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.

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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu

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.

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.

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: Is only accepted with a legitimate excuse or a plan for submission. If you are concerned that you are unable to submit work in a timely fashion, let me know as soon as you can and we can create a plan.

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 [Procedures 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>

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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](#)

<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

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.

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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](#) 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

AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

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Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Wk	Start Date	Topic/Activity	Assignment Due
1	Aug 28	Intro/Scenic Terminology	
2	Sept 4	Model-making	
3	Sept 11	Script Analysis	Model box due by September 11
4	Sept 18	<i>Reckless</i>	Reckless Response and Concepts due by Sept 11
5	Sept 25	<i>Reckless</i>	Reckless Rough Models due by Sept 25
6	Oct 2	<i>OMaM</i>	Of Mice and Men Response and Concepts due Oct 2
7	Oct 9	No class	Of Mice and Men Models due Oct 9

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	Oct 10	<i>A Year with Frog and Toad opens</i>	
8	Oct 16	<i>The Grown Up</i>	The Grown-Up Response and Concepts due Oct 16
9	Oct 23	<i>The Grown Up</i>	The Grown-Up Rough Model due Oct 23
10	Oct 30	Script Analysis, Pt II	Select with play you want to design by Oct 30
11	Nov 6	Drafting / Paperwork	
12	Nov 13	No class	Recommended Check-in this week
	Nov 14	<i>Thanksgiving Play opens</i>	
13	Nov 20	Work, work, work	
14	Nov 27	Work, work, work	
15	Dec 4		Final Design Package and Presentations Due

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