



THE 515.01E Scene Design I

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2025

Instructor: Michael G. Knight, Jr.

Office Location: PAC 101

Office Hours: T/R 09:00-10:00 or By appointment

University Email Address: michael.knight@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **e-mail**

Communication Response Time: M-F, 9-5, within 24 hours

Class Meets: M/W 11:00 – 12:15 in PAC 126

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Text/Supplies:

The Craft and Art of Scenic Design: Strategies, Concepts, and Resources

By Robert Klingelhofer

ISBN: 978-1-138-93765-9

Vectorworks 2024 or later (you can download a free educational version)

Black foam-core board, Bristol board, craft supplies, drawing paper, spray glue.

Course Description

An introduction to the elements of design with a concentration on proper techniques of drafting ground plans and other design drawings.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify and utilize proper scenic design terminology and techniques through a series of scenic design projects, as well as modern and historical examples.
2. Understand and utilize the tools necessary to complete a fully conceptualized scenic design.
3. Students will be able to complete a fully realized conceptual design.

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Course Requirements

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students will need access to a computer and the Internet. Students will also be actively working on in-class projects.

Instructional Methods

This class will utilize a combination of quizzes, tests, and practical projects to determine student progress and success. Quizzes will be administered on the D2L platform, and the practical project will be completed in person.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Come to class on time. Do not be late. It will set the rest of the class behind if I must stop and reteach the first ten minutes of class. Be on time. Also, commit to the projects. All of these projects are achievable.

Attendance Policy

You are allowed 3 unexcused absences for the semester. After that every unexcused absence will result in a full letter grade drop from your final grade. If you have 7 unexcused absences, you will fail this course.

Assignments

Scenic Projects (4)	200 pts
Quizzes (4)	100 pts
Midterm Project & Exam	100 pts
Final Project & Exam	100 pts
Total Points: 500 pts	

Grading

A = 500-449

B = 448-399

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C = 398-349
D = 348-299
F = 298-000

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M University 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

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.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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 reach out to me. I am always available by email. Please communicate, I can't help if I don't know there's an issue or a question.

Email Policy:

Before sending me an email with a general course-specific question, **review your syllabus/look at the handouts/check myLeo Online/ask a classmate first**. If your question has already been addressed in one of those places, then you will have the answer you need. If your question does not exist, please feel free to email me.

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>

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Late Work:

I normally do not accept late work, however life happens. If you find yourself hopelessly wrapped up in the cold and unforgiving gaze of life...talk to me. I can work with almost any genuine circumstance.

Extra Credit:

Can be offered at the discretion of the instructor.

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](https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf)
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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>

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ETAMU Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy, please visit the webpages below.

[Attendance](#),

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M University 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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form [Undergraduate Academic](#)

[Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.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:

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Office of Student Disability Services

Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5930

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

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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 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.

East Texas Supports Students' Mental Health

Counseling Center Services

The Counseling Center at East Texas, 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

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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

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR*

Week 01:	Introduction and Syllabus Review Responsibilities of the Scenic Designer Scene Design History
Week 02:	Set Production Team & Responsibilities Research, Genres, and Visuals Angles, Direction, and Height Script Analysis Architectural Styles #1 PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #1: <i>Script Analysis</i>
Week 03:	Theatrical Spaces Vectorworks Scenic Paperwork Presenting Your Idea QUIZ #1 (D2L) PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #2: <i>Vectorworks pt. 1</i>
Week 04:	Utilizing the Space Angles and Levels Vectorworks Scenic Paperwork Pt. 1 Architectural Styles #2 PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #1: <i>Script Analysis</i> DUE
Week 05:	Realistic and Naturalistic Design Architectural Elements Renderings DESIGN PROJECT #1: <i>Style Board</i> QUIZ #2 (D2L) PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #2: <i>Vectorworks pt. 1</i> DUE
Week 06:	Post-Modern Design One Location Sets vs Multiple Location Sets The Movement of Scenic Pieces Architectural Styles #3 DESIGN PROJECT #1: <i>"Style Board"</i> DUE PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #3: <i>Renderings</i> QUIZ #3 (D2L)

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Week 07:	Abstract Design Scenic Flow Charts DESIGN PROJECT #2: "Scenic Flow Charts" PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #3: Renderings DUE
Week 08:	Scenic Paperwork Review Pt. 2 Practicals and the Little Things Architectural Styles #4 DESIGN PROJECT #2: "Scenic Flow Charts" DUE QUIZ #3 (D2L) PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #4: Vectorworks pt. 2
Week 09:	Putting the Scenic Design Together Scene Design Assignments DESIGN PROJECT #3: "Script Analysis and Necessities" Mid-Term Exam (D2L) PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #4: Vectorworks pt. 2 DUE
Week 10:	Musicals Architectural Styles #5 DESIGN PROJECT #3: "Script Analysis and Necessities" DUE PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #5: The Complete Package
Week 11:	The Unit Set: One Piece DESIGN PROJECT #4: "Renderings and Research" PRACTICAL ASSIGNMENT #5: The Complete Package DUE
Week 12:	TBA Architectural Styles #6 DESIGN PROJECT #4: "Renderings and Research" DUE QUIZ #4 (D2L)
Week 13:	Models DESIGN PROJECT #4: "Models"
Week 14:	Models ***THANKSGIVING BREAK***
Week 15:	Options, Options, Options Tech Rehearsals Jobs and Career DESIGN PROJECT #4: "Models" DUE
Week 16:	FINAL EXAM (10:30-12:30)(D2L)

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