

Technical Theatre: Intro to Design and Production

Instructor: M. Scott Tatum

Course Purpose:

1. To create or improve students' awareness and respect for the technology and design involved in stage productions. The course will familiarize students with design procedures for various areas in live theatre and dance production.
2. To acquaint the students with particular equipment and facilities available in the McCallum Theatre Program.
3. To improve the students' ability to conceptualize design ideas and communicate them to the production team clearly using verbal and visual means.
4. To learn how to be a part of a producing theatre company through assisting in the creation of materials for McCallum's season of performances.

Course Objective

The students of this course will demonstrate, through projects and classroom work, the confidence and knowledge necessary to function in many different environments including, but not limited to, the facility of the McCallum Theatre. Students will understand, design, and create elements necessary for the production of performing arts events. The students of this course are intended to become a pool of capable individuals interested in designing, and providing technical support for stage productions.

Expected Results of the Course

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Understand the function of a production team, including script reading and notation, design meetings, production meetings, technical analysis, rehearsals.
2. Create written critical and analytical responses to plays and productions.
3. Understand basic electrical theory and its applications in the theatre.
4. Safely use tools and materials to build and rig stage scenery for actual and hypothetical productions.
5. Operate sound playback and recording equipment.
6. Identify all major areas and equipment in the physical theatre space.
7. Develop computer skills relevant to the production process.
8. Safely and efficiently rig from a lighting plot.
9. Effectively utilize verbal, written and visual means to illustrate design ideas.
10. Identify most types of lighting instruments, electrical cable, connectors and lamps.
11. Create effective house management and publicity strategies.

Methods of Instruction

Instruction consists of classroom discussion with hands-on demonstration and use of subject matter on course specific and departmental projects. A journal will be kept daily.

Text Used - **NOT REQUIRED** but helpful.

1. **Theatrical Design and Production**
4th ed. J. Michael Gillette (check Amazon.com for new and used copies if desired)

Assignments / Grading per Six Weeks

1. Brief quizzes on topics discussed in class. (20%)
2. Projects demonstrating design approaches, concepts, and production techniques and an understanding of the procedures, methods and equipment presented in class (40%)
3. Daily work (including in-class work, homework, in-class shop work, and journal) (20%)
4. One critique of a play or live performance based on criteria sheet given with proof of attendance (ticket stub or program). This can be fulfilled by attending McCallum or area productions whether you work them or not. Out of the 6 critiques for the year, you must attend at least one non-play performance such as dance, opera, concert, or performance art. (20%)
5. Completing any assignment or examination after the date it is due will result in the downgrade of a full letter grade unless the reason is due to an excused absence and per school district policies.

Course Meetings

1. Approximately one (1) topic covered in class per 2-3 periods accompanied by practical discussion of equipment, techniques and discussions of design aesthetics and concepts (See schedule for a more detailed outline).
2. Field trips and professional visitors will augment classroom discussion whenever available and appropriate.
3. Class meets in the theatre facility or associate classroom and students are expected to conform to the rules of behavior and dress of this facility. These rules will be covered.
4. Students will bring all required materials to class everyday.

Course Requirements

1. Throughout the year, we will work in the shop to supplement construction of production sets. This is a graded component of the class and participation is compulsory.
2. At the core of this academic class are verbal and written discussions about topics. While not the focus of instruction, students are expected to utilize their best writing and speaking skills.
3. Students are required to attend a performance of each Theatre production of the year.

Materials Required

1. 1inch or larger 3 ring loose-leaf binder for keeping materials
2. Bound notebook with lined paper for use as a Journal
3. 12 inch ruler (suggested a 3-sided scale ruler)
4. 4 x 4 grid/graph paper.
5. Map Pencils
6. Sharpened Pencils
7. Eraser
8. Blank White Paper (or drawing paper)
9. Optional: Other Color Media such as Markers, Pastels, etc
10. Optional: Tracing Paper

Class Rules

1. Students must bring all required materials needed for class each day. Last minute trips to the locker will not be permitted.
2. Absolutely no drinks, food, or gum of any kind is allowed in the shop or theatre.
3. Closed-toe shoes are absolutely required during class. When working in the shop, a change of clothes is often suggested to avoid paint and whatnot messing up nicer clothing.
4. Promptness is expected. Students who come late to class are responsible for getting instructions without interrupting the class.
5. Students are expected to work in class until the bell rings for the next class. If the bell rings while the instructor is talking, students are expected to wait until the discussion is finished before leaving. The shop and theatre will always be left neat and clean after each class and students will take time before the end of class to insure this.
6. Littering or tampering with set, decorations, furnishings, costumes, equipment or props in the theatre or shop will not be tolerated.
7. At all times, students will be expected to demonstrate the utmost respect for the instructor, themselves and all others in the class.
8. At all times, students are expected to observe all safety measures and procedures.
9. Students are expected to participate in all class activities. Participation helps ensure the students understand the material.
10. If students are unclear about anything covered in class, they should ask for extra help.
11. Completing any assignment or examination after the date it is due will result in the downgrade of a full letter grade unless the reason is due to an excused absence and per school district policies.

Course Outline (Subject to change as needed.)

1st Six Weeks

Introduction/Rules/Procedures
Production Organization and Management - Quiz
Design Process - Project
Theatre Architecture - Quiz
The Stage and Its Equipment - Quiz
Elements of Design - Project
Production Work - Project/Journal

2nd Six Weeks

Scenic Design - Quiz
Tools and Materials - Quiz
Scenic Production Techniques - Project
Scene Painting - Quiz
Stage Properties - Project
Production Work - Project/Journal

3rd Six Weeks

Lighting Design - Quiz
Electrical Theory and Practice - Quiz
Lighting Production - Project and Quiz
Projections - Project
Production Work - Project/Journal

4th Six Weeks

Costume Design - Project/Quiz
Costume Construction - Project/Quiz
Production Work - Project/Quiz

5th Six Weeks

Makeup - Project
Sound Design and Technology - Quiz
Publicity/House - Project
Production Work - Project/Quiz

6th Six Weeks

Mock Production/Portfolio - 3 Projects/Quizzes
Production Work - Journal

Student Information Sheet (please write legibly)

Name:

Grade:

Student's Email:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name:

Phone Number:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name:

Phone Number:

Parents/Guardians' Email:

Class Schedule:	Period 0:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 1:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 2:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 3:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 4:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 5:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 6:	Teacher:	Room:
	Period 7:	Teacher:	Room:

What would you like to learn in this class?

Please read and have a parent/guardian sign the following:

Because of the inherent dangers involved in using some power tools, rigging and hanging equipment, and working with certain materials, students are expected to follow all safety rules and procedures and behave in a mature and responsible manner.

I have read and understand the requirements of the Technical Theatre class and agree to follow all the RULES FOR WORKING IN CLASS, IN THE SHOP, AND BACKSTAGE FOR MY OWN SAFETY, THE SAFETY OF OTHERS AND THE CREATION OF A BETTER LEARNING ENVIRONMENT.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____