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DRAM 395.05: Special Topics - Model Building for Theatre Designers

Alessia Carpoca

University of Montana, Missoula, alessia.carpoca@umontana.edu

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MODEL BUILDING FOR THEATRE DESIGNERS.

DRAM 395 – 05

M-W 10:10-12:30 Part 190

3 credits

Instructor: Alessia Carpoca

Office Hours: Mon/Wed 10-11am Fri 3-4pm

Phone: 406 531 5836

e-mail: alessia.carpoca@mso.umt.edu

Focus of Course:

This practical course will focus on model making techniques for the theatre. The following materials will be explored: wood, cardboard, foam, gesso, moldings, clay, paper mache, metals.

Method of Teaching and Evaluation:

The course will be taught through demonstrations and work in class. Evaluation will be based on participation in classroom activities and projects completed in a timely fashion. Students will work in a studio environment. There will be a total of 7 projects to be completed during the semester:

Project 1# Model boxes,	worth 120 points
Project 2# Floors,	worth 120 points
Project 3# Walls,	worth 120 points
Project 4# Landscapes,	worth 120 points
Project 5# Furniture,	worth 120 points
Project 6# Gates/fences,	worth 120 points
Project 7#Final	worth 280 points
Total	1000 points

Grading:

Assignments are due on the date given on the course outline. They will be presented to the class.

If you skip the class because you aren't finished with the assignments you will just be sure you'll learn nothing at all for that day. Therefore, bring your work in progress to the class even if you aren't finished.

Here is what I will look for when grading, in order of priority:

- 1) did you complete the entire assignment?
- 2) did your work show signs of improvement from start to finish?
- 3) did you follow instructions as well as you could?
- 4) did you do more than was assigned?
- 5) How "good" is your work compared to:
 your other work in class
 others' work in this class

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VP/SA/Index.cfm/page/1321>.

All Drama/Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the Department of Drama/Dance Handbook. The Handbook is available online at <http://www.sfa.umt.edu/drama/index.html>.

REQUIRED TOOLS

- A cutting board (self healing), 18" x 24"
- A pencil-shaped "X-acto-type" knife with #11 blades. Buy these in bulk.
- A metal ruler, 24" is best

RECOMMENDED TOOLS

- A small "jeweler's" wire cutter, and a "jeweler's" pliers
- A soldering gun
- small rasps and files
- clay tools
- an X-acto "helping hands" very useful for soldering
- mini table saw, mini hot knife, mini molding cutter, magnifying lens, airbrush....

REQUIRED MATERIALS

- 2 - ply bristol
- 3M super 77 spray glue
- several black foamcore sheets
- basswood and balsa wood sticks, and moldings
- Brass wire, tubing, square stock, etc as needed
- gesso
- Carpenter's glue, white glue, Cyanoacrylate glue and hardener (zap a gap+accelerator very useful but also very toxic if you'll use you need some form of ventilation)

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

- Illustration board ("student" weight cold press)
- "bogus" board or other cheap stiff cardboard (not corrugated!)
- black construction or other black paper (matte)
- Modeling paste - commercial or homemade with white acrylic and spackle or plaster
- Plastiline clay, Fimo other "harden able" clay (as needed)
- Florists wire (straight lengths - not rolls)
- styrene sheets, rods, tubes, etc when needed
-fabric bits, glitter, model foliage, pipe cleaners, marbled paper, cardboard tubes, model people, furniture, cars, sawdust, gravel, sand, jewelry, gauze, cheesecloth shiny plastic stuff.....

WORKSPACES FOR MODELMAKING

Have a table. You will mess it up. It should be fairly large - at least 2' x 4.' The more work you do, the bigger you will want it to be. This table should be reserved for model making - you will be leaving stuff all over it for extended periods. The surface should be smooth and you should use your cutting mat for cutting. Have storage containers for your tools. Keep your tools well organized and in good condition so that you can find and use them when you want them.

You will be using smelly and toxic substances. Sometimes you can use them outside and carry the work back indoors, but it's best to have a well ventilated area that can be sealed off from adjacent spaces - a spray hood, a studio with a really good venting system, etc.

Weekly Schedule:

DATE	TOPIC	BRING TO CLASS....
M Jan 22	Intro to course: materials and supplies.	
W Jan 24	Read a ground plan, cutting and gluing foam core	Build 1 model box 1/4" scale of the Masquer and 1 of the Montana stage
M Jan 29	Work in class	
W Jan 31	Adding details to a model	
M Feb 5	NO CLASS	Work on assignment
W Feb 7	Project 1 due	Research 3 floor types
W Feb 9	Present research on floors. Using and making different textures	
M Feb 12	Work in class on floors	
W Feb 14	Project 2 due	Research 3 Walls

M Feb 19	NO CLASS	
W Feb 21	Present research on walls.	
M 26 Feb	Work in class	
W 28 Feb	Project 3 due	Research 2 landscapes
W March 5	Naturalistic landscapes	
M March 8	Work in class on landscapes	
W March 9	Project 4 due	Research 4 pieces of furniture
M March 14	NO CLASS USITT CONFERENCE	
W March 16	NO CLASS USITT CONFERENCE	
M March 19	1/4" and 1/2" furniture	
W March 22	Work on furniture in class	
M April 2	Work on furniture in class	
W Apr 4	Project 5 due	Research 2 gates and/or fences
M Apr 9	Sodering demo	
W Apr 11	Work in class	
M Apr 16	Project 6 due	Design or research set for final project
W Apr 18	Present research for final project	
M Apr 23	Casting demo	
W Apr 25	Placing all the pieces together	
M Apr 30	Preliminary model due	
W May 2	Painting the model	
M May 4	Revised model	
W May 9 10:10-12:00	Final Project due	Bring everything done for this class