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THTR 107A.04: Theatre Production - Scenery Construction

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The University of Montana School of Theatre and Dance

Theatre Production: Scenery Construction

THTR 107a Sect. 01 & 04

Fall 2022

Instructor: Brian Gregoire
Location: PARTV 140 (Scene Shop)
Contact: Brian.Gregoire@umontana.edu

Office Hours: **by appointment**
please schedule through email

Class Meeting Times: 107a sect. 1 M/W 2:00p – 5:20p (3 CR)
(PARTV 140) Scene Shop 107a sect. 4 T/R 2:00p – 5:20p (3 CR)

Finals Meeting Times: 107a sect. 1 May 11 3:20p – 5:20p
107a sect. 4 Nov. 24 1:10p – 3:10p

Course Objective:

Students will learn vocabulary, material identification, use of common woodworking tools, and standard construction practices through hands on learning.

Course Description:

Scenery Construction is a course designed to develop knowledge and skillsets pertaining to the construction of scenery and props for the stage. Students will learn to utilize design and technical construction draftings, models, and sketches to build, paint and install scenery and props. This course utilizes the School of Theatre & Dance's multiple productions over the course of the semester to realize the learning objectives in a practical, hand on shop/lab class environment.

Required Materials: (Due by second week of class)

Tape Measure (25') Pencils Clear Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1-2003)

Small Notebook

Required Texts:

No texts are required.

Course Requirements:

Participation in all main stage scheduled production strikes, active/meaningful participation during class hours, demonstrate advancement in scenery construction knowledge and vocabulary, demonstrated advancement in scene shop protocol, safety, and tool usage.

Grading:

Theatre is a collaborative art. Everyone involved serves as an integral part of the production as a whole. Though, you may not be on stage performing, your craftsmanship is a vital aspect of every performance. Earning an "A" means that you have completed exceptional work. Average work will be assessed an average grade. Assessment is based on willingness to work, preparedness for each class, retention of training, readiness to help classmates, attention to safety, respect for equipment, and progress in basic scenic construction skills. Final grade will be a result of the combination of several separate aspects of the class.

Daily attendance: 5 points/day
Daily production evaluation: 10 points/day
Shop and Tool Safety/Usage: 100 points ttl.

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Assessment:

This class will utilize verbal, written and demonstrative methods for evaluation. Students will need to be able to:

- Identify essential tools, hardware and fasteners.
- Identify material types and material usage as it relates to scenery.
- Follow multi-step instructions.
- Demonstrate safe and correct usage of stationary and portable tools.
- Read and use drafting(s), sketches, and elevations to create scenery.
- Identify of individual areas scene shop, tool room and other tool storage areas.
- Be fluent in theatre terminology as it applies to scenery.
- Demonstrate proper building techniques as instructed.

Daily Production Evaluation:

- **Dress appropriately/prepared for class** (2pt)
 - Following dress code for the shop environment and bringing required items.
- **Using time in class effectively** (2pt)
 - Staying on task, being an active team member, working in a manner that achieves efficient completion of projects. This would also include effective and thorough cleaning of the shop and work areas and working as a team player.
- **Completing work to scene shop expectations** (2pt)
 - Scenery and props will be structurally sound, have appropriate fasteners, be safe to use and maintain accuracy in aesthetics and craftsmanship.
- **Taking/following instruction** (2pt)
- **Attentiveness/situational awareness** (2pt)
 - Students should actively be using all senses to focus on project work, tool usage, and welfare of others. An example would be not being distracted by texts or other cell phone usage.

Fridays, Work Calls and Extras:

- You may make up excused absences by coordinating with the instructor.
- There are many opportunities for gaining more experience or making up class time. This may come up at varied times over the course of the semester and may be used for extra credit, etc. at the discretion of the instructor.
- Non class time or weekend work calls, while not common, may become necessary to complete the set on time if the scene shop falls behind production schedule. If these are needed the instructor will give advance notice so that you can make arrangements to complete the call. These will be required coursework. In the case of scheduling conflicts, the student is responsible for arranging alternate times ahead of the scheduled work call.

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Class/Shop Policies:

- Please be prepared for every class by bring a tape measure, safety glasses and pencil.
- Dress in a manner appropriate for work in a shop. Oils, dust and paint are common hazards to clothing. Shoes cannot be slip-ons or open-toed. Clothes cannot be extremely baggy or formal. Long hair must be tied back and contained so it does not fall forward; jewelry that may dangle into the moving parts of a tool is prohibited. Clothing should not restrict movement or limit the student's ability to participate fully in class. **Class attire should be equivalent to a t-shirt and jeans, overalls, or similar clothing that protects the feet, legs and torso. This includes closed toed shoes with a heel.**
- Be ready to *receive instruction* at the top of the scheduled hour.
- Due to safety considerations, at **no** point during a student's time spent in class or serving on a production (in any capacity) should **non-enrolled persons** be guests of that student without my consent. Presence of such unauthorized persons in a class, shop, or any backstage/off-stage area will negatively affect a student's grade.
- Any injury incurred during class time, must be reported to the Instructor.
- A shop runs most effectively when it is clean and organized. At the end of each day, we will stop working no later than 20 minutes prior to the end of class so everyone can help clean the entire shop.
- You will be required to sign in at the start and out at end of each class. At the end of class everyone will be excused **at the same time**. Please be considerate to your fellow students and continue helping until cleanup is complete and the class has been released.
- **Cell phones may not be used for any purpose during class time.** Use of cell phones during class time will result in a reduction of daily production points.

Attendance:

Attendance is essential to the successful completion of the course. If you know you must be late or absent, please send an email to me.

- **If at anytime you are experiencing any symptoms of illness DO NOT COME TO CLASS**
 - Please send an email indicating that you are unwell. This will not count against your grade.
- *If I do not receive an email from you, your absence will be counted as unexcused.*
- Tardiness policy:
 - Less than 5 mins late 1 point deduction from daily attendance score
 - 5-20 mins late 2 points deduction from daily attendance score
 - 20-30 mins late 3 points deduction from daily attendance score
 - More than 30 mins late 4 points deduction from daily attendance score
- If you are late or leave early four times it will count as one unexcused day.
- Two unexcused absences will result in drop of one full letter grade for your attendance score.
- Each unexcused absence thereafter will result in an additional ½ letter grade drop in attendance score.
- The working of additional hours is welcomed and will be reflected in your final grade.
- UNEXCUSED ABSENCES CANNOT BE MADE UP!
- Absences due to departmental productions or class work will be treated as excused. Adv. notice is required and arrangements should be made to make up class time for full credit.

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- Excused absences must be made-up within two weeks from the date which the absence occurred for full credit unless other arrangements are made.

Strike:

Strike is the process of deconstruction the set at the end of the run. The dates and times will be posted on the shop calendar. Strikes will also be announced two weeks preceding the strike, but generally occur the Sunday afternoon following the last matinee performance of each show.

This semester there will be two **Required Strikes**.

- Sunday, October 23 3:30p – 10:00p *Cabaret*
- Sunday, November 20 3:30p – 10:00p *Call of the Wild*

Important Scene Shop Dates:

There is a calendar in the scene shop to help keep our productions on schedule and to help keep you informed on important events related to this course. This calendar will have a breakdown of all elements that need to be completed for each of the productions that the School of Theatre and Dance is producing this semester. It will also include non-production shop projects, timelines and other relevant events. This is a rolling calendar and will be updated as often as necessary.

Academic Misconduct and the Student Conduct Code:

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/default.php.

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. For more information, please consult <https://www.umt.edu/disability/default.php>.

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance Handbook.

<http://www.umt.edu/umarts/theatredance/About/handbook.php>.

There is inherent risk involved in many Theatre & Dance classes as they are very physical in nature. Please proceed through class, shop time, or rehearsal with caution. Always be mindful of your personal safety and the safety of others. Students participating in class/shop/rehearsal/performance do so at their own risk.