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THTR 107A.04: Theatre Production I - Scenery Construction

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The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance

THTR 107a/207 Sect. 1 & 4 Theatre Production: Scenery Construction Spring 2014

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

Office Hours: TU/TR 9a-10a
Office Phone: 243-4511

<u>Class Meeting Times:</u>	107a/207a sect. 2	M/W	2:10p – 5:30p (3 CR)
(PARTV 140) Scene Shop	107a/207a sect. 4	Tu/TR	2:10p – 5:30p (3 CR)

Final Meeting Times:	107a/207a sect. 2	(T) May13	3:20p – 5:20p
	107a/207a sect. 2	(T) May 13	1:10p – 3:10p

Course Objective: Students will gain an appreciation and an understanding of the tools and methodologies used in set and prop construction.

Course Description: Scenery Construction is a course designed to develop skills and knowledge of pertaining scenery construction for the stage through practical hands on application. Utilizing the various tools the designer has given us, mainly draftings and models, we are responsible for building and painting scenery and props for the stage, while striving to maintain the highest integrity of the designer's artistic vision.

Required Materials: Tape Measure (25'), Pencils, Safety Glasses (ANSI Z87.1-2003)

Course Requirements:

100 Productive Shop Hours, 2 scheduled strikes, demonstrated advancement in scenery construction knowledge and skill, demonstrated advancement in scene shop protocol and safety, tool usage, tool safety.

Grading:

Theatre is a collaborative art. Everyone involved serves as an integral part of the production as a whole. Though, we may not be on stage performing, our craftsmanship is a vital aspect of every performance. Therefore, simply being present for class and strikes does not constitute an "A." Each class member will be assessed 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 three separate aspects of the class. Attendance hours constitute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the final grade, demonstrated skill and knowledge assessment will be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the final grade and strike participation will count as $\frac{1}{4}$ of the final grade.

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Benchmarks:

Though there are no written assignments in the scene shop, there are multiple benchmarks that I will look for during assessment.

At MIDTERM:

- Identify essential tools, hardware and fasteners.
- Confident knowledge of scene shop, tool room and other tool storage areas.
- Confident knowledge in the usage of stationary and portable tools.
- Fluent in theatre terminology as it applies to scenery.

At Final Show:

- Continued proficiency in above items
- Demonstrated advancement in basic construction techniques used during the semester
- Demonstrated awareness of construction process'

Policies:

- Please be prepared for every class.
- 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.
- Be ready to *receive instruction* at the top of the scheduled hour. Our time in the shop is limited and it wastes that time if you don't arrive on time and are ready.
- Have the required items with you (tape measure, pencil, and safety glasses) and ready to use at the top of the scheduled hour. If you are not fully prepared for class, I reserve the right to release you from any duties for the day, which will prevent you from getting hours for the day.
- 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.
- A shop runs most effectively when it is clean and organized. At the end of each day, we will stop working no later than 15 minutes prior to the end of class so everyone can help clean the entire shop.
- You will be required to "clock" in at the start and 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 stay until cleanup is complete and the class has been released .

Attendance is essential to the completion of each show and also to obtaining the hours necessary to pass the course. If you know you must be late or absent, please call my office (243-4511) or email me to let me know.

Unexcused missed hours cannot be made up.

- If you are late or leave early four times it will count as one unexcused day.
- Three unexcused absences will result in drop of one full letter grade for your attendance score

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- Each unexcused absence thereafter will result in an additional ½ letter grade drop in attendance score.
- The working of additional hours is acceptable and will be reflected in your final grade.
- Absences due to departmental productions or class work will be treated as excused absences. Adv. Notice is required.
- Excused absence hours should be made up on the Friday of the same week in which the absence occurred unless other arrangements are made.

Friday and weekend work calls:

- Fridays are days when the shop is open to make up any missed hours or to simply come in and enjoy working more because you just can't get enough of it.
- There will be TBA Work Calls throughout the semester. They will be announced a week in advance and posted on the Scene Shop Call Board.

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 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://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.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: <http://life.umt.edu/dss/>.

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/theatredance/about/handbook>.

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.