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THTR 207.01: Theatre Production - Scenery Construction

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The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance

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

Fall 2017

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

Office Hours: T/TR 10:30pm – 12:00pm

Class Meeting Times: 107a/207 sect. 1 M/W 2:00p – 5:20p (3 CR)
(PARTV 140) Scene Shop 107a/207 sect. 4 T/R 2:00p – 5:20p (3 CR)

Final Meeting Times: 107a/207 sect. 1 Dec 19 1:10 – 3:10p
107a/207 sect. 4 Dec 19 3:20 – 5:20p

Course Objective:

Students will learn vocabulary, use of tools, and basic construction practices through the practical, hands on learning experience of the production process.

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 for the School of Theatre & Dance's multiple productions over the course of the semester.

Required Materials:

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

Optional Texts:

Stock Scenery Handbook -Rauol
Back Stage Handbook - Carter

Course Requirements:

Participation at two (2) 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. Therefore, completing the minimum requirements each day will only earn a "C" grade. Effort above the minimum requirements 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 several separate aspects of the class.

Daily attendance:	5 points
Daily production evaluation:	15 points
Strikes:	150 points (75 ea.)
Work calls	40 points/call (2 @ 5hrs)
Written/oral or demonstrative tests:	20 points ea. (3)

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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 draftings, 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 2pts
- Efficiency and organization 3pts
- Completing work to highest quality 2pts
- Taking/following instruction 2pts
- Working safely/following protocol 2pts
- Attentiveness/situational awareness 2pts
- Staying on Task 2pts

Class/Shop 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. Clothing should not restrict movement or limit the student's ability to participate fully in class. Class attire should be a t-shirt and jeans, overalls, or similar clothing that protects the legs and torso.
- Be ready to *receive instruction* at the top of the scheduled hour.
- Have required items with you (appropriate clothing, 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 class without credit 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.
- 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 stay until cleanup is complete and the class has been released.
- **Cell phones may not be used during class time.** Use of cell phones during class time will result in a reduction of daily production points.

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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, letting me know.

- If I do not receive an email from you, your absence will be counted as unexcused.
- 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.
- Excused absences must be made-up within two weeks from the date which the absence occurred for full credit unless other arrangements are made.

Fridays and work calls:

- Most Fridays, are days when the shop is open to make up any missed hours or to simply come in and enjoy creating. The shop will be open from 2p -5p.
- Work calls are announced when it becomes necessary to work extra hours beyond class time in order to facilitate the construction of the set. If these are announced, they become mandatory and points will be added into the attendance and production evaluation scores to reflect these times. Any work attended above the required amount is considered extra credit.
- The following dates are reserved for work calls.
 - Saturday, September 16th 1p – 6p
 - Saturday, September 23rd 1p – 6p
 - Saturday, October 28th 1p – 6p
 - Saturday, November 4th 1p – 6p

****Please note****

Other dates may be added as needed or these may be canceled if they are not needed.

Strike Requirement:

Strike is the process of deconstruction the set at the end of the run. As a team member you are required to complete both *As You Like It* **and** *Peter and the Star Catcher*. There are additional dance strikes that can be participated in for extra credit. Conflicts with other production assignments or coursework must be addressed and resolved with me no later than the Monday before the strike date.

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Important Scene Shop Dates:

Mon.	Sept 04	Labor Day, No Class
Tues.	Sept 05	<i>As You Like It</i> , build begins
Mon.	Sept 27	Actors on Stage for Rehearsal (set construction complete)
	Oct. 2-10	Tech rehearsals and dress rehearsals
SUN	Oct 22	<i>As You Like It</i> Strike (Time is TBA, Likely around 4:00p until 10p)
Wed.	Oct 11	<i>As You Like it</i> Opening, Dance Up Close and Peter builds begin
	Oct. 23-31	Dance Up Close tech rehearsals and dress rehearsals
Fri	Nov 10	Dance Up Close opens
Sat	Nov 11	Dance Up Close Strikes
Wed.	Nov 5	Actors on Stage for PSC. Construction complete.
	Nov 12-20	PSC tech and dress rehearsals
Tues.	Nov 21	PSC Opening
	Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Break (PSC runs Nov. 24-26) No Class
Sun	Dec. 3	PSC Strike

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 <http://www.umt.edu/vpesa/Dean%20of%20Students/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 <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/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.