

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

---

Spring 2-1-2016

### THTR 552.01: Problems in Scene Design

Alessia Carpoca

University of Montana - Missoula, [alessia.carpoca@mso.umt.edu](mailto:alessia.carpoca@mso.umt.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Carpoca, Alessia, "THTR 552.01: Problems in Scene Design" (2016). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7476.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7476>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

## THTR 552 Problems in Scene Design: Scenic Painting

M-W 11:10-2:00 Spring 2016 3 credits

Prereq THTR 155 or Consent of Instr.

Instructor: Alessia Carpoca

Phone : 406 531 5836

Office Hours: by appointment or Tue-Thu 9:30-10:30 PARTV 198. Please email me.

e-mail: [alessia.carpoca@umontana.edu](mailto:alessia.carpoca@umontana.edu)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a studio class in the techniques and processes of scene painting encompassing skills necessary for theater and theater related painting projects. Tools, materials and painting techniques will be demonstrated by the instructor and explored and executed by the student. This class requires both homework time spent in the scene shop painting projects and research time. Painting does not arrive from your imagination alone. Research into surfaces and light will be necessary to apply the skills of painting.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will focus on developing your skills in prepping surfaces, color mixing, drawing, painting, perspective and gaining an understanding of the way light affects objects. You will also learn to:

- Identify and employ the various tools and techniques frequently used in scene painting
- Simulate three dimensional textures and materials with a painted finish
- Critically comment on the strengths and weaknesses of your own work as well as the work of your peers

### TOPICS & PROJECTS:

Paints and Scene Paints Painting Tools & Supplies

Brush & Painting Techniques:

Lining	Stippling	Ragging
Scumbling	Spattering	Rolling
Spraying	Sponging	Dry Brushing
Stenciling	Pouncing	Schlapitchka

Color Theory, Wood Graining, Stones and Brick Work, Marbling, Architecture details, Drapery and Landscape.

### Grade Weight:

Project 1	Stucco with scumbling, stippling, spattering and sponging	Jan 27	25
	Bricks (lining and stenciling, wash)	Feb 1	25
	Stones (Spattering, sponging, ragging)	Feb 3	25
	Wood grain (dry brush rough wood)	Feb 8	25
Project 2	Interior wall 19th century	Feb 24	100
Project 3	Marble cornice	March 21	200
Project 4	Corinthian Capital	April 11	200
Project 5	Drapery	April 18	100
Final Project	Landscape	Thursday May 12 from 10:10 to 12:10	200
	Work on Productions		50
	Scene Painting Notebook		50

Each project will be critiqued in class, and a written grade will be posted on Moodle by the next class period. I grade the projects subjectively as follows: did you do it? Did you follow instructions? Do you appear to have learned something or improved your technique? Did you accurately and efficiently reproduce the sample or research? Did you do it on time? If you do a wonderful job I may give extra points. If you don't do it at all I won't give you any points. You are responsible for a Scene Painting Notebook. At the end of the term I will check your notebook and expect to see in it all handouts I will be giving to you in class and all research you have done for each project. I will also like to see a brief description of the steps you took to paint each project and how long did it take. Think of your notebook as a diary to record how to paint each project. Please make every attempt to photograph your work. You will be very glad you did for your portfolio reviews and you will have to include pictures in your Scene Painting Notebook. **The notebook is worth 50 points.**

For this class **you must also do 5 hours of paint time this term on actual productions at 10 point per hour.**

Records your hours on a timesheet (included). Name the play or project you worked on, who supervised you, tell what you did, how many hours you spent doing it. Put your timesheet in my mail box across from my office by May 5. You are responsible for arranging all of your production time. Sometimes there are weekend calls to paint a floor exc. You may work on these just look at the board. You may paint for any shows of The School of Theatre and Dance on campus. Options to work outside campus (like the Montana Rep in Missoula, will be evaluated **as extra credits only** and I will need to know who will be supervising you...)

### **CLASS POLICIES:**

**Attendance is mandatory.** If you are not in class you aren't painting, your do not gain insights from your classmates work and your classmates are denied your insights. **After 4 unexcused absences you will automatically FAIL this class.**

**SNACKS AND LUNCH:** We will have a 10 minute break around 12:45 every class period. Please eat at that time

**PHONES:** Turn them off. Not on vibrate, off! No exceptions, No texting. Zilch, Nada, Nope.

### **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/vpsa/policies/student\\_conduct.php](http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

All Theatre & Dance students must have an in-depth knowledge of the practices and procedures outlined in the School of Theatre & Dance *Student Handbook*. The *Handbook* is available online at <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. 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.

*The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation*

There is no textbook for this class but there are lectures on Moodle that you should read. If you still like to buy a book I'll suggest "The Art of Faux" by Pierre Filkestein or "Scenic Art for the Theatre" by Susan Crabtree.

### **Materials you will need:**

Architectural scale rule  
Pencils (please do not come to class whitout a pencil)  
Masking tape  
Charcoal sticks (buy a box)  
Few plastic containers (yogurt, cottage cheese anything with a lid.....)  
Set of scenic Painting brushes available at the bookstore for around \$70

### **THE PAINT AREA**

Never open a can of paint if there is one of the same color already open. DONT POUR Flammable solvents and scrap (put into the appropriate storage container), plaster, sawdust, or other thick stuff DOWN THE SINK. Latex is ok as long as you use a strainer. The paint carts for the shows are off limits for assignments. You may take liners, extensions, etc, but return them and TOUCH NO PAINT.

LABEL YOUR PAINT WITH YOUR NAME AND PROJECT. **LABEL THE BUCKET NOT THE LID.**

NEVER LEAVE A BRUSH TO DRY not even for 5 minutes. Do not paint without water to put your brush in.

**CLEAN UP: Wash your brushes and tools, wash your excess buckets. Return liners, roller handles, etc.**

DON'T LET PROJECTS INTERFERE WITH THE SHOP WORK. Ask the Scene Shop Manager if you

can lay your project out. Never put a project in front of an exit. If there is no room to work, come back later. **If you are painting during shop hours you are required to wear safety glasses at all times.** Never spray paint inside the shop unless you are instructed to do so. Spray paint outside and always lay down paper or plastic under your project. **I strongly ask you to clean up after yourself and leave no traces of your working in the shop.** Do not leave any paint, buckets, brushes etc. anywhere other than the appropriate place where they get stored. **DON'T PAINT NEAR THE TOOLS AREA.**

## THE THEATRES

### SET UP WET PAINT SIGNS

Don't fly anything unless you know how and unless you know it's safe to do so. Co-operate with carpenters and electricians regarding deck access: everybody has to get their job done. Paint in the semi dark. Paint the sawdust in as texture. Ask about their schedule and find a compromise!

Don't get paint on the black curtains. Don't get paint on the carpets. **DON'T LEAVE PAINT IN THE WINGS.** People fall over it in the dark, it spills. **Never spray paint** in the theatre without permission: the drift ruins the curtains and upholstery. **TAKE ALL PAINT AND TOOLS INTO THE SHOP WHEN YOU QUIT FOR THE DAY.** Never leave any paint or tools onstage after you quit, Dobby the House Elf will not clean up after you...PLEASE EMPLOY COMMON SENSE AND COMMON COURTESY.

## CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

This is a class in which you will get messy. It is highly likely that your clothing and shoes will come in to contact with paint during every class session. I recommend that you establish a set of "paint clothes" and wear them to each session. Additionally, only closed toed shoes (not sandals, crocs, flip flops, etc) are permitted in class or at work sessions. Arriving with inappropriate footwear will constitute an absence

### Class sessions M-W 11:10-2:00

date	Topic	Assignment / Activity	% points
Jan 25	schedule, research, tour of scene shop, basics of scene paint, basics of tools equipment. Canvas prep, base coats	Read Lecture 1 and 2 on Moodle	
<b>Jan 27</b>	Demo: 2 color graduated wash, 2 color wet blend, 2 color graduated spatter/sponge, dry brush, wet in wet, wet over dry, blending, and wash layers. Scumble and other textures.	Research 3 kinds of stones and 3 types of bricks.	25
<b>Feb 1</b>	Demo Bricks. Demo: stones and wood.	Research wood types	25
<b>Feb 3</b>	Demo: stones		25
<b>Feb 8</b>	Demo wood Demo stencil for project 2	Base top and bottom wood 2 color wet blend base center pink. Research 3 stencil options (bring to class)	25
Feb 10	Draw wood panelling then Demo wood grain mix and use of washes and glazes	Finish wood grain and wash work on stencil at home	
<b>Feb 15</b>	HOLIDAY	Stencil needs to be finished by Feb 22	
Feb 22	Layout stencil, and light/shadows on wood.		
<b>Feb 24</b>	<b>Critique 2 (interior wall) starts at 1:00</b>	Rebase flat and draw new project. Research 5 types of marble.	200
Feb 29	Marble exercise. Base marble	Draw the full project	
Mar 2	Ink full project. Veins and contrast in base		
Mar 7	highlights and shadows		
Mar 9	highlights and shadows		
<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>USITT Conference work from home</b>		
<b>Mar 16</b>	<b>USITT Conference work from home</b>		
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Critique 3 (marble cornice) starts at 1:00</b>	Base flat work on draw half Capitel on brown paper with highlights and shadows	200

Mar 23	Demo: cartooning. <i>Lecture historical scene painting</i> finish drawing of half capitol		
Mar 28	cartoon capitel, ink it and work on shadows and highlights		
Mar 30	work on shadows and highlights		
<b>Apr 4</b>	HOLIDAY		
<b>Apr 6</b>	HOLIDAY		
<b>Apr 11</b>	<b>Critique 4</b> ( <i>corinthian capitel</i> ) <b>starts at 1:00</b>	Base flat and draw drapery	100
Apr 13	Base drapery add highlights and fabric pattern	Research tassel	
<b>Apr 18</b>	Draw tassel from your research <b>Critique 5 s starts at 1:00</b>	Base canvas and <b>draw only in pencils or charcoal</b>	100
Apr 20	Sky, clouds and background colors		
Apr 25	Greenery and foliage middleground colors		
Apr 27	architecture		
May 2	foreground		
May 4	details		
<b>May 12</b>	<b>FINAL PROJECT DUE</b> <b>Class Partecipation on Productions</b> <b>Research Binder</b>	Thursday May 12 from 10:10 to 12:10 but we can discuss this....	100 50 50

## **Timesheet**

Play/project \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Job description \_\_\_\_\_

Hours \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_