

Fall 9-1-2018

THTR 107A.01: Theatre Production I - Scenery Construction

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The University of Montana School of Theatre & Dance

Theatre Production: Scenery Construction

THTR 107a/207 Sect. 1 & 4

Fall 2018

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

Office Hours: *by appointment*

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 11 1:10 – 3:10p
107a/207 sect. 4 Dec 11 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: ***(Due by second day of class)***

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

Optional items: work gloves

Required Texts:

Stock Scenery Handbook -Rauol Optional Texts: *Back Stage Handbook* - Carter

Course Requirements:

Participation in 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/day
Daily production evaluation:	10 points/day
Strikes:	150 points (75 ea.)
Work calls/outside of class time	40 points/call (2 @ 5hrs)
Written/oral or demonstrative tests:	20 points ea. (three)

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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)
 - Following dress code for shop environment, and bringing required items.
- **Using time in class effectively** (2pts)
 - Staying on task, being an active team member, working in a manner that achieves efficient completion. This would also include effective and thorough cleaning of the shop and work areas and working as a team player.
- **Completing work to highest quality** (2pts)
 - Scenery and props will be structurally sound, have appropriate fasteners, be safe, and accurate in aesthetics and craftsmanship.
- **Taking/following instruction** (1pts)
- **Working safely/correct tool usage** (2pts)
 - Students should follow all safety guidelines and instructions.
- **Attentiveness/situational awareness** (1pt)
 - 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 incoming texts or other cell phone usage.

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 equivalent to a t-shirt and jeans, overalls, or similar clothing that protects the feet, 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.

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Class/Shop Policies (continued):

- 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, 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:

- Fridays may be used to make up missed classes by appointment.
- You may make up excused absences by coordinating with the instructor.
- 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.

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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 *Summer in Smoke* and *White Christmas* strikes. There are additional dance strikes that can be participated in for extra credit or as make up pending approval from the instructor. Conflicts due to other production assignments, coursework or other non-negotiable commitments must be addressed and resolved with me no later than the Monday before the strike date. If no arrangement is made by this day then you will not be excused from attending the strike. If no arrangement is made for missing strike and strike is not attended the hours may be made up, but a full letter grade will be deducted from the students strike grade.

Important Scene Shop Dates:

There is a calendar in the scene shop to help keep out productions on schedule and to help keep you informed on important events related to this course. These following dates reflect two important aspects of scenic construction; when it needs to be done and when we take it down. The striking of the sets is easy to forget, Please copy them into your calendar to avoid conflicts at the last moment.

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.