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THTR 307.01: Production Construction I - Scenery

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Instructor: Brian Gregoire  
PARTV 140 (Scene Shop)  
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Office Hours: By Appointment

Class Meeting Times: As arranged or 2p-5:20p M-W  
(PARTV 140) Scene Shop

Final Meeting Times: December 11, 3:20p-5:20p or as arranged.

Course Objective:  
The objectives of this course include a demonstrated proficiency in the area of theatre production in which the assignment was undertaken, and an ability to complete assignments within production framework and schedules, and with a level of quality that is deemed acceptable by the production team (designers, directors, stage manager and faculty). Other objectives include an ability to incorporate creativity, script analysis, design concepts and direction for each production into the assignment. Students will need to take guidance from faculty but be able to be self-motivated in order to complete their project.

Course Description:  
This course is designed for students working in advanced phases of scenery and props construction. Students learn in depth analysis and gain hands-on experience by undertaking specific production assignments throughout the course. Although the assignments may differ, each class participant gains an understanding of their work and its importance and impact on fully realized departmental productions. Credit in this course could come from production assignments not accepted as either a Junior or Senior project, or as a specialized project in one of the shops or on productions outside the departmental season. As the assignments vary with each individual and production, students in these courses need to make arrangements with their advisor and the design/tech division as to the scope and extent of the responsibilities required for successful completion.

Required Materials:  

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. The final grade will be a result of the combination of several separate aspects of the class. Final grades will be assessed and assigned using the standard grading rubric as suggested by the University of Montana with “+” or “-”.

| 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) |

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. Skirts and dresses should not be worn as students often climb ladders and/or work at differentiating heights. Jeans, t-shirt and tennis shoes make good shop clothes.
- Be ready to receive instruction at the top of the scheduled hour.
• Have 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 points 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.

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 and 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:

• 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.
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*. 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.

**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](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/](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](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.