THTR 130 Intro to Theatrical Production

CREW AND SHOP SHARED SYLLABUS

Fall 2014—Tuesdays—8:00AM

Lecture Location: GFS 106 or as assigned
Lab Location: Lab time – and as scheduled for Shop and Crew assignments – in Crew Track/Crew Track, your work on the stage crew is your lab. Keep your lab registration or you cannot be assigned a grade.

Instructors:
Tina Haatainen-Jones: Director of Design
Office: PED 114E (Costume Shop)
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Duncan Mahoney: Director of Technical Direction
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Elsbeth M. Collins: Director of Production
Office: CWT 200
Office Hours: Thurs., Fri. 2-4PM by appointment
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Jeff Flowers, Part Time Professor of Lighting Design
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Philip G. Allen, Assistant Professor of Sound Design
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Takeshi Kata, Asst. Professor of Scenic Design
Office: CWT
Office Hours: Wed. 12-1PM, Thurs. 1-2PM by appointment
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Teaching Assistant: Ukamaka Izuchi
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Course Description and Overview

To introduce BA/BFA students to safe and effective utilization of basic technical elements involved in theatrical production through hands-on participation in the production side of the School of Dramatic Arts productions, both in the shops and backstage.

Learning Objectives: Students will learn the basics of stage crew and shop operations through practical experience, readings, and research, and through lectures and hands-on projects, will be exposed to the creative process of all areas of theatrical design. Each THTR 130 student will participate in a variety of production practicum during the two semesters of the class. This practicum falls into two parts, Crew Track and Shop Track. Crew Track practicum assignments will be made in the Fall Semester for the entire school year except for students joining the class in the spring, who will be assigned practicum then.

Prerequisite(s): None
Co-Requisite(s): None
Concurrent Enrollment: None
Recommended Preparation: Attend the theatre! Acquire the reading materials and familiarize yourself with them.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials
See Crew and Shop Syllabi for reading lists.

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Class Meetings for Crew Track: Crew Track students will attend Tuesday morning lectures headed by Tina Haatainen-Jones. Students must attend every weekly lecture. There will be lectures by and about every design element employed in the theater. Quizzes will be given every class to assess understanding of the material covered in the reading. All scheduling, show assignments, changes, etc. will be made in class. All show assignments will be final after the eighth week of the semester. Thereafter, changes will only be made in the case of a bona fide emergency. MISSING CLASS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS AN EXCUSE FOR NOT FULFILLING AN ASSIGNMENT. Makeup Quizzes will not be allowed. Crew Track students will join a stage crew for one of the SDA productions. These crews are responsible for running the shows. Possible jobs include and are not limited to deck crew, properties, costume crew, fly system operator, follow-spot operator, light board operator, sound board operator, and assistant stage manager. These assignments begin during “tech week,” usually a full week prior to the opening of the show, and through the strike of the show. You will report to the stage manager, who will make specific assignments, supervise you, evaluate your work, and make grading recommendations.

Class Meetings for Shop Track: Shop Track students will attend Tuesday morning lectures with Duncan and work on scene shop crews for the entire semester. Shop and Crew Tracks have separate syllabi in addition to this document. The students will report to the scene-shop on a regularly scheduled basis.
During lab time, each student will learn a set of skills taught to them by the shop staff and use those skills to assist the scene-shop staff in building the SDA shows.

Statement for Students with Disabilities
Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Website and contact information for DSP:
http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

Academic Conduct
Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/department-public-safety/online-forms/contact-us.

This is important for the safety whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

Support Systems
A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.