

USC School of Dramatic Arts

THEA 230

Communicating Theatrical Design Concepts

FALL 2017—Friday—10:00 am – 11:50 am

KAP 164

Instructor: Tom Buderwitz

Office Hours: available by appointment only

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Course Objective

The purpose of this course is to develop the analytical skills necessary to translate theatrical text into design ideas and learning the different tools to communicate them artistically and technically in a collaborative process.

Course Overview

We will explore the design process through various communication approaches such as:

Text analysis (scene breakdown), research, sketching, drafting, model making rendering and explore working as a collaborative design team.

Since the classroom makes it difficult to fully experience the professional process, I will act as the director in each of your projects to give you some guidance. I hope from this you will learn how to take feedback and use it to revise and improve your own work.

The class will be made up of a variety of in-class working session, along with presentations and discussions.

Prerequisite(s): None

Co-Requisite (s): None

Recommended Preparation: sleep, an open mind and the creative spirit

Required Texts

The Dramatic Imagination by Robert Edmund Jones (**optional**) – a must for every Theater person's library

The Man with the Flower in his Mouth by Luigi Pirandello (**provided**)

Hamlet by William Shakespeare (Folger Library edition)

Materials

This is only a general list. There may be items not listed that you will need.
(Please hold on purchasing these materials until we have reviewed them together in class)

DRAFTING SUPPLIES:

T Square 18" long
Architects scale rule (with 1/4" / 1/2" scale)
Adjustable Triangle
Drafting compass
eraser (stick)
H pencils
pencil sharpener
drafting vellum (pad 11x17 without grid lines)
drafting tape (1/4") or drafting dots
45 deg. Triangle / 30-60 deg. Optional

MODEL BUILDING SUPPLIES

Cutting Mat at least 12" x 18"
X-acto Knife (#11 blades)
X-acto blades #11
Metal straight edge with cork backing - min.
12"
White Glue (sobo)
Bristol board
cold press illustration board
super black board
black foamcore 1/4"
white foamcore 1/4"

PAINTING SUPPLIES:

Water color paint set
Water color brushes

DRAWING SUPPLIES

Sketchpad (11"x17")
Sketching pencils (HB B F H)
Erasers
Erasing shield
Colored Pencils Set

Grading

The final course grade is based on the following point scale:

A = 96 – 100%

A- = 91 – 95%

B+ = 88 – 90%

B = 85 – 87%

B- = 81 – 84%

C+ = 78 – 80%

C = 75 – 77%

C- = 71 – 74%

D+ = 68 – 70%

D = 65 – 67%

D- = 61 – 64%

F = 60% or below

Projects / Assignments – Grade Percentage breakdown:

- 1) MWTFIHM Project Thumbnail sketch: 4%
- 2) MWTFIHM Project Words List Breakdown: 3%
- 3) MWTFIHM Project Costumes B&W roughs: 3%
- 4) MWTFIHM Project Ground Plan/Drafting: 5%
- 5) MWTFIHM Project Costumes Color Renderings: 3%
- 6) MWTFIHM project Model: 8%
- 7) Hamlet project Thumbnail Sketch: 5%
- 8) Hamlet project Words List Breakdown: 4%
- 9) Hamlet Project Research: 8%
- 10) Hamlet Project Poster: 8%
- 11) Hamlet Project Costumes B&W 12 roughs: 4%
- 12) Hamlet Project Ground Plan/Drafting: 8%
- 13) Hamlet Project Costumes Color 4 Finals: 4%
- 14) Hamlet Project Model Box and working model: 8%
- 15) Class Participation: 15%
- 16) Final Exam (presentations): 10%

Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted. If you must miss the class when the project is due you must contact me prior to the class or project will not be accepted at a later date.

Attendance Policy

A maximum of two TOTAL absences will be allowed without penalty. Every additional absence will reduce your overall grade by 1/3 of a grade (B becomes B-, B- becomes C+, etc.). When possible, please let me know beforehand if you will have to miss class.

Three tardies over 15 minutes will count as an absence.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

Week 1 : August 25, 2017:

READ & REACT (YOUR GUT INSTINCT) – THE PRELIMINARY THUMBNAIL SKETCH – THE MAN WITH THE FLOWER IN HIS MOUTH PROJECT

Read (in class) "The Man with the Flower in his Mouth" by Luigi Pirandello – Discussion re: themes

In class: creation of a thumbnail sketch idea

Assignment: Read Again / do script analysis for design (to be turned in) – Create a rough ground plan for play (to be turned in)

Week 2 : September 1, 2017:

SKETCHING FOR COSTUME DESIGN

Discussion: Character – Style - Color

Assignment: Work on initial Costume Sketches for characters in TMWTFIHM

Week 3 : September 8, 2017:

THE GROUND PLAN: SCALE / THE MACHINE OF THE PLAY / BASIC DRAFTING – ELEVATIONS

Discussion: Scenic Drafting Overview – Tools/ Materials – Basic use of scale ruler

Assignment: create scale ground plan for TMWTFIHM set

Week 4 : September 15, 2017:

THE WORKING WHITE MODEL

Discussion: review scale ground plans – overview of basic white model construction

Assignment: Create Elevations for your set and complete a working white model from your ground plan and Elevations

Week 5 : September 22, 2017:

MODEL PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION OF PROJECT #2

Discussion: Overview of Project #2 - Hamlet

Assignment: Read Hamlet – Create Thumbnail Sketch- Script analysis (words list) (Complete any incomplete work from TMWTFIHM project)

Week 6 : September 29, 2017:

RENDERING FOR COSTUME DESIGN (Guest Lecturer)***

Discussion: Continue Costume Design work

Assignment: create costume renderings for the three characters in TMWTFIHM

Week 7 : October 6, 2017:

HAMLET

Discussion: play Themes - Style and Concept -

Assignment: Assemble Research Boards based on directors notes (minimum of 2 – 18x24 picture boards)

Week 8 : October 13, 2017:

COLOR STYLE

Discussion: - Abstract Design – metaphor and motif

Assignment: Create Color Poster for Hamlet (11"x17" vertical format)

Must incorporate both a classical + modern element from your research boards

Week 9 : October 20, 2017 :

COSTUMES PLOT

Discussion: review Costume Sketching

Assignment: Create a working Costume Plot Layout for all of the Characters in "Hamlet" - & Costume Research Board – 18x24 board with 12 photos of costume style / imagery

Week 10 : October 27, 2017:

GROUND PLAN

Discussion: review Ground Plan Drafting – Theatre ground plans given out

Assignment: Create a working scale Ground Plan for "Hamlet"

Week 11 : November 3, 2017:

COSTUMES RENDERING

Discussion: review Costume Rendering

Assignment: Create 4 Color Costume Renderings for "Hamlet" – Hamlet and at least 3 other characters as discussed (selected) based on your roughs.

Week 13 : November 10, 20167:

THE THEATER MODEL BOX

Discussion: review model construction technique – building the model box

Assignment: Create your black foam-core theater model box

Week 14 : November 17, 2017:

MODEL CONSTRUCTION

Discussion: review model construction technique

Assignment: Create your working Hamlet set model (white) starter for your "FINAL" set model

Week 15 : November 23, 2017:

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 16 : December 1, 2017:

NO CLASS –

(Note: Possible "optional" Final Exam Model Project work session on either Wednesday Dec. 6th, Thursday Dec. 7th or Friday Dec. 8th – TBD)

Week 17 : FINAL EXAM –

Monday December 11, 2017 (AT 8:00 AM*) Location TBD**

Present *Hamlet* Project color models (individual presentations) be prepared to do a show and tell design presentation of approx. 4-5 minutes max.

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) HYPERLINK "<mailto:ability@usc.edu>"
ability@usc.edu.

Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *SCampus*, the Student Guidebook, (HYPERLINK "<http://www.usc.edu/scampus>" www.usc.edu/scampus or HYPERLINK "<http://scampus.usc.edu>" <http://scampus.usc.edu>) contains the University Student Conduct Code (see University Governance, Section 11.00), while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A.

Emergency Preparedness/Course Continuity in a Crisis

In case of a declared emergency if travel to campus is not feasible, USC executive leadership will announce an electronic way for instructors to teach students in their residence halls or homes using a combination of Blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technologies.

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