

USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre 330
Fall 2014

Set Design I
Tu/Th—9:30-11am

Location: KAP 164

Instructor: Sibyl Wickersheimer

Office: CWT 206

Office Hours: Tu/Th 11-12, by appointment

Contact Info: swickers@usc.edu



Course Description and Overview

The dramatic relationship between text, space and performers through script analysis, development of visual ideas, methods of communication and execution as applied to scenic design. Students will learn and use techniques such as research, collage, sketching, perspective sketching, model making, and verbal presentation skills to communicate designs for the stage.

Learning Objectives

Goals for the class are to learn the process of designing stage sets for theatrical productions and live performance by completing designs as class assignments. The assignments will focus on the process of designing while also practicing and developing skills that students can keep in their 'tool kit'. Communication skills will be another area of emphasis and students will get much practice presenting their design ideas in visual, written, and aural medias.

Class Meeting information

Assignments and Sketchbook assignments are to be completed prior to your arrival in class.

Turn off cell phones during all class sessions and put them away.

If your phone rings or is used during class, you may be excused for the remainder of the class period.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Students should set up a Design lab account. To be discussed.

Texts:

Purchase:

Model Making: Materials & Methods by David Neat

Designer Drafting and Visualization, 2nd Edition by Patricia Woodbridge

Theatrical Design & Production, 7th ed. by J. Michael Gillette (already purchased for 130/132ab)

The Dutchman by Leroi Jones

View selections from the following texts on Blackboard:

The Sandbox by Edward Albee

Theatres by Gaelle Breton

Sculpting Space in the Theater by Babak Ebrahimian

Pelleas & Melisande by Maurice Maeterlinck

Materials must be brought to class but cannot be stored in classroom.

These tools are necessary to purchase during the first week. We will discuss this list on the first day of class.

sketchbook - white paper – no lines – at least 8"x10"

Architectural scale rule

#2 pencils & Drafting pencils

Erasers and eraser shield

18"x 24" pad of drafting vellum

T-square

Drafting triangle, adjustable or 30/60

Exacto knife and blades

metal straight edge ruler (preferably a 'Cutting Rail' brand with raised edge)

Black foam core, illustration board and card stock as needed

Glues – Sobo, Tacky glue & hot glue

Straight pins/push pins/T-pins

Masking tape

Cutting matt – at least 18"x24"

Additional materials may be needed per project, including:

Various acrylic paints or watercolors

Various brushes

MATERIALS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE USC BOOKSTORE OR THESE STORES:

Roark Graphic Supplies www.roarkla.com

Sci Arc Supply Store, 811 Traction Ave, Unit 1A, sciarcsupply@sciarc.edu , 213.687.0854

Graphaids, 3030 South La Cienega Boulevard, Culver City - (800) 866-6601

Blick Art Supply, 7301 West Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90036, (323) 933-9284

Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Work in class will be mostly 'hands on', project based work. All projects and assignments will be graded using a point system. Reading assignments will be expected to be completed before the following class session after they are assigned; there will be quizzes on the readings.

No late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercises shall be accepted without penalty unless advance extensions have been arranged between the student and the teacher or unless exceptional circumstances occur. Grades will be lowered by at least one letter grade if they are not turned in by the assigned deadline.

If your work in class is unsatisfactory, you will be warned when midterm grades are due. I am available to discuss your progress in class. I encourage you to make an appointment to meet with me at least once during the semester.

Attendance may play a part in the student's final grade. If the student has more than 2 unexcused absences, overall grade will be lowered by 10%.

Participation in class will be given a numeric point value. Participation means engaging in class discussions and willingness to respond to questions and ideas posed to the class.

ASSIGNMENTS: TOTAL 550

Writing assignment #1 (Sandbox)	25pts
Quiz #1	10pts
Sandbox Design	25pts
Model-Making exercise	25pts
Dutchman storyboards	25pts
Dutchman Design & Presentation	100pts
Dutchman Drafting	100pts
Floor Plan project	50pts
Quiz #2 & 3 (will be pop quizzes from reading assignments)	20pts
Pelleas & Melisande collage	25 pts
Pelleas & Melisande Prelim Design	25pts
Pelleas & Melisande Design & Presentation(Final)	100pts
Participation in class	20pts

Grading

Point values are assigned to individual projects & assignments listed above. The final course grade is based on the following percentages of your accumulated points divided by the total points possible for all assignments (550): The final course grade is based on the following scale:

A=100-94, A-=93-90, B+=89-87, B=86-84, B-=83-80, C+=79-77, C=76-74, C-=73-70, D=69-60, F= below 59

A indicates work of excellent quality; **B** of good quality; **C** of average quality; **D** of below average quality; and **F** indicates inadequate work.

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.

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, (<http://www.usc.edu/scampus>) 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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to change)Week 1

Tues. 8/26

Class Intro & Materials Show and Tell

Assignments: Get Design Lab account and purchase materials

Reading: intro to *Theatres*, Gaelle Breton

Thur. 8/28

History of Stage Spaces Lecture

Assignment: Reading: Intro and Ch. 1, *Scenographic Imagination*Week 2

Tues. 9/2

Bring supplies to every class starting now!

QUIZ on reader pages

Theatre Architecture - Model building demo - start building model theatre

Assignments: Read: *The Sandbox*Read: Ch. 2, *Theatrical Design & Production*

Thur. 9/4

Continue building model boxes

Discuss *Sandbox*Assignments: *Sandbox* Writing Assignment #1Reader pages: John Lee Beatty interview from *Sculpting Space*Week 3

Tues. 9/9

DUE: Writing Assignment #1

Scenic Designers Lecture

Assignments: Set Design for *Sandbox* (due 9/17)

Reading: Anna Veibrock, Ming Cho Lee models

Thur. 9/11

work on *Sandbox* models in classWeek 4

Tues. 9/16

Sandbox Presentations

Thur. 9/18

NO CLASS in KAP, take a trip on the MetroReading: *The Dutchman*Week 5

Tues. 9/23

Bring sketchbooks!

Lecture: Research & the Design Process/Presentation

Discuss *Dutchman*

Assignments: research Assignment (due 9/30)

Thur. 9/25

Bring one book or magazine from library

Storyboarding Lecture

Assignments: *Dutchman* storyboards started in class

Week 6

Tues. 9/30

Dutchman Research due
Assignment: *Dutchman* Set Design (Due 10/14)

Thur. 10/2

Dutchman Storyboards due
Model Building Demo – Audience risers and seating
Reader: Model-Making Chapter 2

Week 7

Tues. 10/7

Model theatre and Audience seating due

Thur. 10/9

work in class on *Dutchman* designsWeek 8

Tues. 10/14

Dutchman Presentations

Thur. 10/16

Dutchman Presentations
Lighting and photography of models
Assignments: Read Ch. 3 & 5 Designer Drafting and Visualizatin

Week 9

Tues. 10/21

Model-Making Demo: Windows and Moulding

Thur. 10/23

Work in class on model-making assignment (due 10/28)
Assignments: finish Model Wall

Week 10

Tues. 10/28

Lecture – Full Design Package (drafting & props info)
Start *Dutchman* ground plans
Assignments: *Dutchman* Drafting Package (Due 11/11)
Read Chapter 8 Designer Drafting and Visualization...

Thurs. 10/30

Work in class on drafting, start section drawings
Read Chapter 9 Designer Drafting and Visualization...

Week 11

Tues. 11/4

Ground Plan Due
Start drafting Sections in class

Thurs. 11/6

Section Due
Start drafting Elevations in class

Week 12

Tues. 11/11

Complete Drafting Package Due, Plan view must be B&W copy
Assignments: Floor taping assignment, meet with partner

Thurs. 11/13 Meet in Light Lab – Floor taping
Bring in Floor plan with notes and measurements for taping

Assignment: Read Pelleas & Melisande

Week 13

Tues. 11/18

Discuss P&M

Assignments: P&M Collage & Scene Breakdown

Thur. 11/20

P&M Collage and Scene Breakdown Due

Lecture: Non-Theatre/Site Specific Performances

Assignments: P&M design concepts and site (due 11/25)

Week 14

Tues. 11/25

Preliminary Design Concept Due, RESEARCH DAY

Assignments: P&M Final Design Presentation, Site Model and Site Plan (due 12/11)

Thur. 11/27

NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Week 15

Tues. 12/2

Individual meetings – site selected, design concept, research

Discuss Site Model Construction & Site Plan

Thur. 12/4

P&M – Individual meetings continue, work in class

FINAL EXAM:

Thursday, December 11, 11am-1pm