

Instructor: Takeshi Kata

Office: JEF 206

Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Contact Info: kata@usc.edu

Course Description and Overview

The class will be made up of variety of in-class working sessions, along with presentations and discussions. You will complete 2 shows, 2 research papers and presentation and 3 model building projects. There will be quizzes for your readings.

You will be expected to participate in the class discussions to help you think critically and to express your thoughts in a collaborative environment. Since the classroom makes it difficult to fully experience the collaborative 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.

Learning Objectives

The objective of this course is to expand the knowledge necessary to translate complex and multi setting theatrical texts into organized staging ideas in visually compelling spaces. We will explore communication tools necessary to make the collaboration with directors and artisans possible. This will include thumbnail and finished sketches, image boards, rough and finished models, plates of drafting, paint elevations and props research.

Prerequisite(s): THTR 330, THTR 132a/b or THTR 230

Co-Requisite (s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: course work or background that is advisable, not mandatory

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

Designer Drafting and Visualizing for the Entertainment World (2nd Edition) by Patricia Woodbridge

Theatrical Design and Production (7th Edition) by J. Michael Gillette

Handbook of Model-Making for Set Designers by Colin Winslow

Salome by Richard Strauss

Oklahoma! Music by Richard Rodgers Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Utility knife with breakaway blade (Olfa Knife)

X-acto blade holder with #11 blades

Metal straight edge with cork back

Cutting mat

Basswood (as needed)

Modeling Paste and Gesso

Grafix Double Tack Mounting Film

Elmer's Glue/Sobo Glue

Tape (various kinds)

Spray Primer

Various Paper and Boards: Illustration, Bristol, Foamcore and many others as needed.

Paints: Acrylic Liquitex, Gouache and Matte Medium (as needed)

Drafting Supplies: Architect's Scale Ruler, T-Square, 12" Adjustable Triangle, White Eraser, Eraser Shield, Draftsman's Compass, Masking Tape, Circle Template (various sizes), one pad or role of Drafting Vellum (24" x 36"), One roll of 24" Tracing Paper.

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Each design project will be graded with 25% Quality of the Design and 75% Process/Execution out of total of 100 points. Points are assigned to each part of the process as follows.

Paper (5) Scene Breakdown (5) Research Folder (10)
Sketches/Storyboards/¼" GPs, sections and elevations (40) White Models (15) Final Model (25)
Paint Elevations (extra) Final Drafting Package (extra) Prop Research (extra)

Model Building Projects will be graded in its quality of accuracy and cleanliness.

Participation – You will be expected to participate in discussions and go see shows/exhibits during the course.

Grading Scale for SDA: **A** indicates work of excellent quality; **B** of good quality; **C** of average quality; **D** of below average quality; and **F** indicates inadequate work.

For Design and model building work, finished items which can be acceptable as professional work will be considered Excellent quality, work with great effort that stretches ones ability will be considered good quality, and work that is completed, but does not show much effort will be considered average quality.

No late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercised shall be accepted unless advance extensions have been arranged between the student and the teacher or unless exceptional circumstances occur.

Grading Breakdown

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|---|
| Salome Project | 25% | (25% Design, 75% Process/Execution) | Due: Oct 14 th |
| Oklahoma! Project | 25% | (30% Design, 70% Process/Execution) | Due: Dec 11 th |
| Wall/Door Model Projects | 5% | | Due: Nov 18 th |
| Staircase/Window Model Project | 5% | | Due: Nov 18 th |
| Detailed Furniture Project | 5% | | Due: Nov 18 th |
| Designer Research Presentation | 10% | | Due: Sep 23 rd -Oct 14 th |
| Artist/Architect Presentation | 10% | | Due: Nov 4 th -Dec 2 nd |
| Quizzes | 5% | | |
| Participation | 10% | | |

Additional Policies

1 TOTAL excused absence 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. 2 tardies over 10 minutes will count as an absence. Use of cellphones in class is disrespectful and will not be tolerated.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <u>Week 1 August 26:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | Introduction Design Process: Research, Sketches, Story Boards, Rough GP and Section |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Read EF's Visit to a Small Planet Listen/Scene Breakdown Salome Paper and Preliminary Research Folder Purchase Materials Read DD&V Chapter 17 Sketch Design (pg.253-266) Start Designer Research Project |
| <u>Week 2 September 2:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | Salome Sightline |
| | <i>Present:</i> | Ideas, Research folder and/or Thumbnail Sketches |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Sketches, GP, Elevation and Section Build Model Box (2) Read DD&V Chapter 13 Principles of Perspective (pg.161-180) |
| <u>Week 3 September 9:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | Rough Design: Sketch, GP, Section and Elevations |
| | <i>Discussion:</i> | White Model Perspective Sketch from GP |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Finish Perspective Sketch from a GP Continue with Sketches and Storyboards and/or Build White Model Options Read DD&V Chapter 15 Period Shapes (pg.199-211) |
| <u>Week 4 September 16:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | White Model Options and/or Sketches and Drafting |
| | <i>Discussion:</i> | Finished Model and Model Building Materials Walls and Doors Defining Space (Different types of Sets) |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Revise White Model/Start on Final Model Work on Wall/Door Project Read DD&V Chapter 15 Period Shapes (pg.212-219) |
| <u>Week 5 September 23:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | White Model Options/Process Final Model Designer Research Presentation 1 |
| | <i>Discussion:</i> | Finished Model and Model Building Materials 2 Windows and Stairs |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Work on Final Model Work on Window/Stair Project Read DD&V Chapter 14 Forced Perspective (181-198) |
| <u>Week 6 September 30:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | Final Model Process Salome Designer Research Presentation 2 |
| | <i>Discussion:</i> | Paint Elevations, Drafting and Prop Research |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Continue work on Salome Design |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| <u>Week 7 October 7:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | Final Model Process Salome Designer Research Presentation 3 |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Complete Salome Design |
| <u>Week 8 October 14:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | Salome Project Designer Research Presentation 4 |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Start Architect/Artist Research Project Read/Listen/ Scene Breakdown Oklahoma! Preliminary Research Folder, Sketches and GPs Oklahoma! Read TD&P Chapter 3 A Breif History of Theatre... (pg.37-51) |
| <u>Week 9 October 21:</u> | <i>Present:</i> | Ideas for Oklahoma! |
| | <i>Discussion:</i> | Oklahoma! History of Theatre/Scenery/Automation |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Develop Oklahoma! Sketches GPs and Elevations (Few Options) |
| <u>Week 10 October 28:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | Intermediate Model Building Techniques: Curved Wall, Moving Pieces and Spiral Staircase Detailed Furniture Techniques Work on Oklahoma! |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Finish Detailed Furniture Project Rough Models, GPs, Sections and Story Board Oklahoma! |
| <u>Week 11 November 4:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | In class working session |
| | <i>Present:</i> | Architect/Artist Research Presentation 1 Oklahoma! Process |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Work on Projects |
| <u>Week 12 November 11:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | In class working session |
| | <i>Present:</i> | Architect/Artist Research Presentation 2 |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Work on Projects |
| <u>Week 13 November 18:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | In class working session |
| | <i>Present:</i> | Architect/Artist Research Presentation 3 |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Finish Projects |
| <u>Week 15 November 25:</u> | THERE IS NO CLASS ON NOVEMBER 25th. HAPPY THANKSGIVING! | |
| <u>Week 16 December 2:</u> | <i>Discussion:</i> | In class working session |
| | <i>Present:</i> | Architect/Artist Research Presentation 4 |
| | <i>Assignment:</i> | Finish Oklahoma! |

Final Examination Date: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th 2:00-4:00 pm

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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 <https://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/>. 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.