THEA 230
Communicating Theatrical Design Concepts
FALL 2016—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.

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

MWTFIHM Project Thumbnail sketch  4%
MWTFIHM Project Words List Breakdown  3%
MWTFIHM Project Costumes  6% (3% B&W roughs 3% Color finals)
MWTFIHM Project Ground Plan/Drafting  5%
MWTFIHM project Model  8%
Hamlet project Thumbnail Sketch  5%
Hamlet project Words List Breakdown  4%
Hamlet Project Research 8%
Hamlet Project Poster project 8%
Hamlet Project Costumes  8% (4% B&W 12 roughs 4% 4 Color finals)
Hamlet Project Ground Plan/Drafting  8%
Hamlet Project Model Box /working model  8% (model box 4% working model 4%)
Class Participation 15%
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 26, 2016:
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 02, 2016:
SKETCHING FOR COSTUME DESIGN
Discussion: Character – Style - Color
Assignment: Work on initial Costume Sketches for characters in TMWTFIHM

Week 3 : September 09, 2016:
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 16, 2016:
RENDERING FOR COSTUME DESIGN
Discussion: Continue Costume Design work
Assignment: create costume renderings for the three characters in TMWTFIHM

Week 5 : September 23, 2016:
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 6 : September 30, 2016:
MODEL PRESENTATIONS / DISCUSSION OF PROJECT #2
Discussion: Overview of Project #2 - Hamlet
Assignment: Read Hamlet – Create Thumbnail Sketch- Script analysis
(metaphors) (Complete any incomplete work from TMWTFIHM project)

Week 7 : October 07, 2016:
HAMLET
Discussion: play Themes - Style and Concept -
Assignment: Assemble Research Boards based on directors notes (2 – 18x24
picture boards)

Week 8 : October 14, 2016:
COLOR STYLE
Discussion: - Abstract Design – metaphor-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 21, 2016 -
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 28, 2016:
GROUND PLAN
Discussion: review Ground Plan Drafting – Theatre ground plans given out
Assignment: Create a working scale Ground Plan for “Hamlet”

Week 11 : November 04, 2016:
Guest Lecturer TBD : COSTUMES RENDERING
Discussion: review Costume Rendering
Assignment: Create 6 Color Costume Renderings for “Hamlet” – Hamlet / Ghost / Gertrude / Claudius / Ophelia and 1 other character

Week 12 : November 11, 2016:
THE THEATER MODEL BOX
Discussion: review model construction technique – building the model box
Assignment: Create your black foam-core theater model box

Week 13 : November 18, 2016:
MODEL CONSTRUCTION
Discussion: review model construction technique
Assignment: Create your working Hamlet set model (white) starter for your “FINAL” set model

Week 14 : November 25, 2016:
No Class : Thanksgiving Break

Week 15 : December 02, 2016:
MODEL CONSTRUCTION
Discussion: review model construction technique
In Class – Work on Hamlet Models – bring model buildings tools and materials to class
Assignment: Create finished “Hamlet” color model for presentation at Final Exam

Week 16 : FINAL EXAM – December 12, 2016 (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 minutes

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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