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 Gilette (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
The Scenographic Imagination, by Darwin Reid Payne
Sculpting Space in the Theater by Babak Ebrahimian
Pelleas & Melisande by Maurice Maeterlinck
One Place After Another, by Miwon Kwon
Film Directing, Shot by Shot, by Steven D. Katz
American Theatre, journal
Chance, journal

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:
Architect’s Corner http://www.architectscornerstore.com/
Sci Arc Supply Store, 955 E 3rd St, Los Angeles, CA 90013 , 213-356-5309
Graphaids, 3051 S La Cienega Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232, (800) 866-6601
Swain’s, 537 N Glendale Ave, Glendale, CA 91206, http://www.swainsart.com/

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. All work turned in should be typed and files labeled as follows: NAME_DATE_CLASS PROJECT for example WICKERSHEIMER_8_29_2016_330Sandbox.pdf

No late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercised 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. 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%.

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.
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 taping project 50pts
Quiz #2 & 3 (will be pop quizes from reading assignments) 20pts
Pelleas & Melisande collage 25pts
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.

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.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE (Subject to change, dependent on class size!)

Week 1
Tues. 8/23 Class Intro & Materials Show and Tell
Assignments: Get Design Lab account and purchase materials
Reading: intro to Theatres, Gaelle Breton

Thur. 8/25 History of Stage Spaces Lecture
Assignment: Reading: Intro and Ch. 1, Scenographic Imagination

Week 2
Bring supplies to every class starting now!
Tues. 8/30 QUIZ on both reading assignments
Theatre Architecture - Model building demo - start building model theatre
Assignments: Read: The Sandbox
Read: Ch. 2, Theatrical Design & Production

Thur. 9/1 Continue building model boxes
Discuss Sandbox
Assignments: Sandbox – see full project sheet
Reader pages: John Lee Beatty interview from Sculpting Space

Sunday, Sept 4 DRESS REHEARSAL for BARBECUE at GEFFEN PLAYHOUSE
time TBA
http://www.geffenplayhouse.org/Barbecue

Week 3
Tues. 9/6 DUE: Writing Assignment #1
Scenic Designers Lecture
Assignments: Set Design for Sandbox (due 9/15)
Reading: Anna Veibrock, Ming Cho Lee models

Thur. 9/8 work on Sandbox models in class

Week 4
Tues. 9/13 Art&Architecture Library visit
Scenic Designers Lecture part 2

Thur. 9/15
Sandbox Presentations
Reading: The Dutchman

Week 5
Tues. 9/20
Lecture: Research & the Design Process/Presentation
Discuss Dutchman
Assignments: research Assignment (due 9/27)

Thur. 9/22
Bring sketchbooks!
Storyboarding Lecture
Assignments: Dutchman storyboards started in class

Week 6
Tues. 9/27
Bring one book or magazine from library
Assignments: Dutchman Research due
Assignment: Dutchman Set Design (Due 10/11)

Thur. 9/29
Dutchman Storyboards due
Model Building Demo – Audience risers and seating
Reader: Model-Making Chapter 2

Week 7
Tues. 10/4
Model theatre and Audience seating due

Thur. 10/6
work in class on Dutchman designs

Week 8
Tues. 10/11
Dutchman Presentations

Thur. 10/13
Dutchman Presentations
Lighting and photography of models
Assignments: Read Ch. 3 & 5 Designer Drafting and Visualization

Week 9
Tues. 10/18
Model-Making Demo: Windows and Moulding

Thur. 10/20
Work in class on model-making assignment (due 10/25)
Assignments: finish Model Wall

Week 10
Tues. 10/25
Lecture – Full Design Package (drafting & props info)
Start Dutchman ground plans
Assignments: Dutchman Drafting Package (Due 11/8)
Read Chapter 8 Designer Drafting and Visualization...

Thurs. 10/27
Work in class on drafting, start section drawings
Read Chapter 9 Designer Drafting and Visualization...
Week 11
Tues. 11/1
Ground Plan Due
Start drafting Sections in class

Thurs. 11/3
Section Due
Start drafting Elevations in class

Week 12
Tues. 11/8
Complete Drafting Package Due, Plan view must be
B&W copy
Assignments: Floor taping assignment, meet with partner

Thurs. 11/10
Meet outside scene shop – Floor taping
Bring in Floor plan with notes and measurements for
taping
Assignment: Read Pelleas & Melisande

Week 13
Tues. 11/15
Discuss P&M
Assignments: P&M Collage & Scene Breakdown

Thur. 11/17
P&M Collage and Scene Breakdown Due
Lecture: Non-Theatre/Site Specific Performances
Assignments: P&M design concepts and site (due 11/22)

Week 14
Tues. 11/22
Preliminary Design Concept Due, RESEARCH DAY
Assignments: P&M Final Design Presentation, Site Model and Site
Plan (due 12/8)

Thur. 11/24
NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING

Week 15
Tues. 11/29
Individual meetings – site selected, design concept, research
Discuss Site Model Construction & Site Plan

Thur. 12/1
P&M – Individual meetings continue, work in class

FINAL EXAM: Thursday, December 8, 11am-1pm