

# USC School of Dramatic Arts

**Theatre 241      Methods & Materials**  
**Spring 2017—Thursday—2-3:50pm**  
**Location:** KAP 150 /Bing Design Lab



**Instructor: Sibyl Wickersheimer**

**Office:** JEF 200

**Office Hours:** Wednesday 12-1, Thursday 12-1, by appointment

Please always make an appointment prior to coming to office hours.

**Contact Info:** [swicker@usc.edu](mailto:swicker@usc.edu)

## Course Description

Experience both Cutting-edge and traditional methods and materials to enhance the planning stages and the realization of theatrical design.

## Learning Objectives

- Students will expand their knowledge and proficiency of current digital technology used to aid the design process and enhance communication of their designs. By deepening their understanding of the basic materials, methods and techniques utilized within the industry of entertainment design students can better strategize fabrication needs during the design and production process.

## Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

### Purchase:

Design lab account must be paid for during 1<sup>st</sup> week of classes or Creative Cloud subscription on laptop  
Drawing & Rendering for Theatre by Clare P. Rowe  
Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera

### For Reference:

Designer Drafting and Visualization, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Patricia Woodbridge  
Drawing & Rendering for Theatre by Clare P. Rowe  
Introduction to Theatrical Design & Production, 7<sup>th</sup> Edition by Gillette  
Model Making: Materials & Methods by David Neat  
Model Making for the Stage: A Practical Guide by Keith Orton  
Model Making: Conceive, Create and Convince by Arjan Karssen & Bernard Otte

### Online References

PBS:Art 21 <http://www.pbs.org/program/art21/>  
Eco Sets [www.ecosetconsulting.com](http://www.ecosetconsulting.com)  
The Green Theater [www.thegreentheater.org](http://www.thegreentheater.org)  
Broadway Green Alliance [www.broadwaygreen.com](http://www.broadwaygreen.com)  
The Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts [www.sustainablepractice.org](http://www.sustainablepractice.org)

### Supplies (to be discussed per week, no need to purchase all at once)

Sketchbook/notebook  
Digital Camera (DSLR) <http://thefirstclasstravelguide.com/best-dslr-camera-200/>  
Various building supplies per project will include paper, foam core, Bristol board, matte board, plexi, brass rods, etc.

## Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Work in class will be 'hands on', project based work. All projects will be graded using a point system. Assigned readings will be expected to be completed for the following class session.

*No late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercises shall be accepted 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 about your grade 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. **Cell phones must be turned off and put away during classes. Please take notes on paper or laptops/tablets.**

The final course grade is based on the following scale:

A=100-94; A-=93-90

B+=89-86; B=85-84; B-=83-80

C+=79-76; C=75-74; C-=73-70

D=69-70; F=59 or below.

Point values are assigned to individual projects/assignments .

Final grades will be based on points accumulated (90% of final grade) as well as class participation and attendance (10% of final grade). There shall be no unexcused absences

**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.

## Assignments/Quizzes

Photoshop Paint Elevations	10pts	
Soft Goods & Theatrical Fabric Quiz	10pts	
InDesign Project Props Package	10pts	
Production Photography	20pts	
Sustainable Practices Resesarch	10pts	
Birdhaus 3D Design project	30pts	
	part 1	Prelim Design, Research , 3d Model (AutoCAD or Vectorworks)
	part 2	real size, physical model
	part 3	Orthographic Drawings finalized for laser cutting and CNC
Soldering Project or 3d Printed object	10pts	
	<hr/>	
	100pts TOTAL	

## Final Examination Date:

**Thursday, May 4, 2-4pm**

## Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be brought to class and turned in to the instructor during class sessions. For assignments that are digital files, the student should email the instructor the file(s). Files names should have the following format: MM\_project name\_student name\_01

## Additional Policies

Cell phones must be turned off and put away during classes. Please take notes on paper or laptops/tablets.

Week 1 Jan. 12	Show & Tell, Course Intro	Read: Gillette p. 479-486, Assign: Rowe, Ch. 17 & 18
Week 2 Jan. 19	Digital Rendering Elevations (Photoshop) <b>MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB</b>	Assign: Rowe, Ch. 19 & 21 Assign: Paint Elevation Read: Theatrical Fabrics resources Read: Art of Manipulating Fabric
Week 3 Jan. 26	Theatrical Fabric seminar: Jeff Flowers from Rosebrand, <a href="#">curtain finishes</a> , <a href="#">curtain types</a>	Read: Large Format Printing Article
Week 4 Feb. 2	Fabrics Quiz Digital Printing techniques discussion Lecture: Sustainability Practices in the Theatre	Due: Paint Elevation, upload Google Dr
Week 5 Feb. 9	Props Research & Deliverables Use Adobe InDesign to create props research document. <b>MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB</b>	InDesign tutorial in class. Due: Quiz Assign: Props Package
Week 6 Feb. 16	<b>MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB</b>	InDesign tutorial in class.
Week 7 Feb. 23	Digital Photography – bring DSLR cameras	Due: Props Package pdf document
Week 8 March 2	Digital Photography – bring DSLR cameras	Assign: Production Photographs
Week 9 March 9	Sustainability Practices in the Theatre (SKYPE) Discuss: Final Projects in Sustainability	Due: Production Photographs (take 1) Assign: Sustainability Reading
Week 10 March 16	NO Class – Spring Break	
Week 11 March 23	Lecture: Digital Fabrication Techniques	Assign: Research and design Birdhaus Read: Woodbridge Ch.16, Digital Design_TD&T,
Week 12 March 30	<b>MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB</b>	Due: Production photographs (take 2) Due: 3d Model (or rendering) of Birdhaus design
Week 13 April 6	Building from Orthographic Drawings <b>MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB</b>	Due: Orthographic Drawings of Birdhaus Assign: Build 1:1 Physical model
Week 14 April 13	Discuss necessary revisions of physical models. File Prep for Laser Cutting and CNC Cutting.	Due: Physical Model Assign: Revisions and File Prep
Week 15 April 20	CNC project – cut and build one of the birdhouses with Mike! <b>MEET IN SCENE SHOP</b>	Due: File prep Read: Model Making Ch.4 & 5
Week 16 April 27	3d Printing <b>MEET IN SCENE SHOP</b>	Assign: Print 3d object
FINAL EXAM May 4 2pm	Present Final Projects	Due: Sustainable Practice paper Due: Production photographs (take 3)

\*\*\*\*\***WEEKLY SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!!**\*\*\*\*\*

### **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](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](mailto: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, ([www.usc.edu/scampus](http://www.usc.edu/scampus) or <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.