

# **Syllabus CTPR 534**

## **Intermediate Production Design**

2 Units

Prerequisite: CTPR 508

Instructor: Roland Rosenkranz  
SPRING 2019

Course Objective: Learn and experience the process of Production Design as it applies to an overall knowledge of the cinematic arts.

Grades are based on: 55% Assignments & in-class projects  
30% Final project & presentation  
15% Class participation

Students are expected to be on time and prepared for each class. Two unexcused absences will result in a student's grade being lowered by one full letter (IE: A becomes B). A third unexcused absence will result in a student's grade being lowered by one, additional full letter (IE: B becomes C). A student's grade will be lowered by one full letter for each additional unexcused absence. Two late class arrivals equate to one full absence.

In order for an absence to be excused, the student must have approval from the professor and provide documentation at the next attended class session.

If a student misses class due to an emergency, the student must contact the professor prior to class or contact the Production Office at 213-740-3317.

Office Hours: Thursdays 6-7PM by appointment. Instructor is also available via email and telephone throughout the semester. Also, follow the class on our Facebook page.

### **CLASS SCHEDULE**

Please note that schedule and content are subject to adjustments based upon guests' schedules and available times for studio visits.

#### **Week 1 1/10 Course Overview**

Discuss the responsibilities of a production designer.

Lectures on how the designer develops a concept, rulebook and visual metaphor.

Discuss concept of character as the basis for visual choices.

Turning a script into designable elements.

Assignment: Using instructor assigned script, students develop visual concept for mood board and class discussion.

**Week 2 1/17 Dissecting a Script**

Discussion of the Art Department Team: art director, set designer, illustrator, storyboard artist, art department coordinator and graphic designer, construction, set decorator, prop department, locations manager & staff.

Review Week 1 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

Assignment: Using instructor assigned script, students develop a ground plan, research material and create mood & tone boards using texture, finishes wallpaper.

**Week 3 1/24 SketchUp Class I**

Class meets in lab (lower level SCA). The lecture is devoted to SketchUp instruction.

**Week 4 1/31 SketchUp Class II**

Class meets in lab (lower level SCA). The lecture is devoted to SketchUp instruction.

**Week 5 2/7 Locations**

GUEST: Location Manager

Discuss building sets vs. location.

Discuss the process of designing for a location.

**Week 6 2/14 Blocking the Scene to Develop a Ground Plan**

Class lecture about blocking and designing based on a script.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, students create basic visual concept for entire script/story. Students find visual research and create mood boards for one scene.

**Week 7 2/21 Director Plans/Groundplans/Stage Plans**

Review Week 6 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

ASSIGNMENT: Based on in-class critiques, students revise presentations for second review in Week 8.

**Week 8 2/28 Elevations**

Architectural style applied. How architecture informs story.

Review Week 7 revised assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, students create elevations of one scene.

**Week 9 3/7 Field Trip**

Class meets at active studio to view in-production show, art department, etc.

**Week 10 3/14 SPRING BREAK**

**Week 11 3/21 The Construction Department**

GUEST: Construction Coordinator

General lecture & discussion of construction budgeting and techniques.

ASSIGNMENT: Students research photos of appropriate set decoration and bring to class on a thumb drive for review in class.

**Week 12 3/28 Strategies for Low Budget Production**

Discuss the challenges and approaches to take when working on a low budget production while protecting the production value. Discussion includes communication with the Director and Producer, location vs. builds, recycling sets & locations and style.

**Week 13 4/4 Set Decoration**

GUEST: Set Decorator

Lecture & discussion about furniture, lighting fixtures and drapery.

**Week 14 4/11 Backings & Green Screen**

GUEST: Art Director

General discussion of use of various types of backings and green screen visual effect techniques to extend set or add backgrounds. Discuss final project.

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FINAL PROJECT: select a script from the choices provided or present an alternative for approval. Final project requirements include designing one set, and one location including mood boards and SketchUp. Presentations, materials selection, and verbal in class presentation of the design. Each student discusses their chosen script, presents visuals, discusses the concepts and outlines their approach to the script.

Discussion must include general analysis of script, color palette, tone, character, period and locations. Prep and discussion for final project.

**Week 15 4/18 Budgeting**

Budgeting discussions, breakdown costs, etc.

Review progress on Final Projects.

**Week 16 4/25 Special Situations, Projects, Review**

Review of class concepts, discussion of special design situations.

Prepare for final project presentation.

**FINAL EXAM WEEK: 5/1 - 5/8 2019**

Final Project presentation in class.

# 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 Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards”

<https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/>. 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>.

Behavior that persistently or grossly interferes with classroom activities is considered disruptive behavior and may be subject to disciplinary action. Such behavior inhibits other students’ ability to learn and an instructor’s ability to teach. A student responsible for disruptive behavior may be required to leave the class pending discussions and resolution of the problem and may be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action.

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## Support Systems:

*Student Counseling Services (SCS)* - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call. Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

<https://engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling/>

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline* - 1-800-273-8255. Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP)* - (213) 740-4900 - 24/7 on call. Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. <https://engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp/>

*Sexual Assault Resource Center*- For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: <http://sarc.usc.edu/>

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance* – (213) 740-5086 Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. <https://equity.usc.edu/>

*Bias Assessment Response and Support* -Incidents of bias, hate crimes and micro-aggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support/>

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs* provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. <http://dsp.usc.edu>

*Student Support and Advocacy* – (213) 821-4710. Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. <https://studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa/>

*USC Emergency Information*. Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, <http://emergency.usc.edu>

*USC Department of Public Safety* – 213-740-4321 (UPC) and 323-442-1000 (HSC) for 24-hour emergency assistance or to report a crime. Provides overall safety to USC community. <http://dps.usc.edu>

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*Diversity at USC* - Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. <https://diversity.usc.edu/>

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**PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND DRINKS (OTHER THAN WATER) ARE NOT PERMITTED IN ANY INSTRUCTIONAL SPACES IN THE CINEMATIC ARTS COMPLEX**

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### **DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR**

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