

Syllabus CTPR 534

Intermediate Production Design

2 Units

Prerequisite: CTPR 508

Instructor: Nathan Ogilvie

SA: TBD

Spring 2020

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 absences will result in a student's grade being lowered by one full letter (IE: A becomes B). A third 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 absence. Two late class arrivals equate to one full absence.

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 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 1/16 Course Overview

Discuss the responsibilities of a production designer, communication, & design principles. Turning a script into designable elements.

Assignment: Using Oscar nominated for Production Design script, create set list, identify main characters, theme, keys.

Week 2 1/23 Developing a Concept

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

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

Discuss concept of character as the basis for visual choices.

Discuss 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.

ASSIGNMENT: Using same script create basic visual concept for entire script/story, create board for a key set.

Week 3 1/30 Presenting Research and Locations

Review Week 2 assignment. Peer review in class.

Discuss research and locations.

ASSIGNMENT: Based on script, students create research portfolio for 5 key sets (one location) with alternate. Presented in-class peer review, students revise presentations for second review in Week 4.

Week 4 2/6 Director Plans/Groundplans/Stage Plans & Blocking

Review Week 3 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

Walk a stage set with plans. Discuss blocking and designing based on a script. Discuss communicating the set through drawings, use of texture and finishes.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, students develop a director's plan

Week 5 2/13 SketchUp Class I

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

Week 6 2/20 SketchUp Class II

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

Week 7 2/27 Elevations and Perspective

Review Week 4 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

Discuss elevations and perspective. Discuss building sets vs. location. Discuss the process of designing for a location.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, students create elevations and perspective image from one set.

Week 8 3/5 Architectural Styles, Periods, and Materials

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

Discuss architectural styles. How architecture informs story.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, research material and create mood board & concept board using texture, finishes wallpaper.

Week 9 3/12 Visit to working Set**NO SCHOOL 3/19 SPRING BREAK****Week 10 3/26 Illustration and Graphics**

Review Week 8 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

Discuss roll of Graphic Designers and Illustrators. Discuss murals, paintings, fonts, and sculpture.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, create a graphic breakdown with research.

Week 11 4/2 Set Decoration and Property

Review Week 10 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

GUEST: Set Decorator

Lecture & discussion about furniture, lighting fixtures, drapery, and props.

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

Week 12 4/9 The Art Department and the production team

Review Week 11 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

General lecture & discussion of construction. Discuss effective ways to work with the entire production team.

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FINAL PROJECT: select a script from the choices provided or present an alternative for approval. 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.

ASSIGNMENT: Using instructor assigned script, students create breakdown of materials, hardware, etc.

Week 13 4/16 Strategies for Low Budget Production

Review Week 10 assignment. Discuss in class; critique from instructor.

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.

ASSIGNMENT: Students breakdown a short student script, create concept board, and floor plan.

Week 14 4/23 VFX, SFX, & Backings

Review progress on Final Projects.

Discuss special design situations, integration with Visual Effect departments. Discuss presentation strategies.

Week 15 4/30 Budgeting, Project review

Review progress on Final Projects.

Discuss budgeting discussions, breakdown costs, etc.

Final class session.

FINAL EXAM WEEK:

Final Project presentation.

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.

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>

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/>

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

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

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.