

THTR 232 STAGE LIGHTING

Spring 2020—Monday/Wednesday—10:00-11:20am

Location: SOS B45/PED 114E (Light Lab)

Instructor: Josh Epstein

Office: By appointment

Office Hours: Monday, 10:30am-12:30pm
By appointment only

Contact Info: (917) 673-5298, joshuae@usc.edu

Course Description and Overview

The primary focus of this class will be to help develop your ability to observe and discuss lighting as it relates both to the stage and the world around you. You will learn the basics of how a lighting design is developed and implemented and you will work to develop a vocabulary to aid in discussions of design, art and performance.

Learning Objectives

Much of your time, both in and out of class will be devoted to thinking and talking about lighting as it relates to the real world and the world of performance. Each class I will expect you to be prepared to discuss lighting you have encountered throughout the week (whether it is in a film, art museum, stage show or moment in nature), as we explore the effects of light on the human experience. After gaining a basic technical understanding of lighting equipment and tools, we will step through the development of a lighting design for performance. You will learn how a designer uses light to tell a story and how a designer approaches a text from first read to opening night.

Prerequisite(s): THTR 130 or THTR 131

Co-Requisite (s): None

Concurrent Enrollment: None

Recommended Preparation: None

Required Reading

The Crucible by Arthur Miller (PDF provided by Josh)

M. Butterfly by David Henry Hwang (PDF provided by Josh)

Required Materials

Camera (a phone camera is preferred)

Close-toed, flat-soled shoes (these must be worn on light lab days)

Crescent wrench

Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

All projects (with the exception of the final) are worth between 50 and 100 points and will be graded based on creativity, appropriate use of principles of design, technical skill, craftsmanship, completeness, and effort as applicable. Class participation will be graded based on the student's attendance, willingness to ask questions and offering respectful and incisive critiques.

The final course grade is based on the following point 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 = 69-56%
- F = 55% or below

Incomplete assignments can lose 5-10 points (1 grade letter) per day until they are submitted. The only exception to this is lab projects, which may be rescheduled with no penalty *only* if there is an excused absence (outlined below). Questions about assignments must be discussed with the instructor prior to the due date.

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.

Grading Breakdown

Due to the importance of class discussions and critiques, unexcused absences are strongly discouraged. Missed classes due to an unexcused absence will not be retaught even with an appointment. More than 2 unexcused absences per semester will negatively reflect on your overall class grade. To request an excused absence, contact me by email a minimum of 24 hours prior to class or provide a doctor's note.

- Attendance will be taken at the top of every class.
- Students arriving between 5 and 20 minutes late without prior notification will be considered tardy.
- Three tardy arrivals constitute an unexcused absence.
- Students arriving more than 20 minutes late will be considered absent.
- All work must be completed regardless of absences.

Assignment	Points	% of Grade
Class Participation	100	10
Lighting Photo Projects (3)	150	15
Lighting Instrument Project	50	5
Play Breakdown (<i>The Crucible</i>)	50	5
Research and Initial Idea List (<i>The Crucible</i>)	100	10
Midterm	100	10
Lighting Crit.	50	5
Light Lab	100	10
Final (<i>M. Butterfly</i>)	300	30

Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments are to be turned in online prior to beginning of class on the assigned due date. If you are absent (excused or unexcused), all work must be handed in on the usual due date by the beginning of class. Failure to do this will mean the assignment will be late and subject to the usual penalties.

Additional Policies

I expect that you will come to class **on time** and prepared to discuss the current project and ready to present your works when applicable. I further expect that during other classroom presentations you will remain engaged and actively offer your feedback and opinions. The use of electronic devices during class discussion (beyond taking notes) is not allowed, even if it is not a discussion in which you are actively engaged.

Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown

WEEK 1:

Jan. 13 - SOS B45 **Discussion:** Introductions. Discuss expectations (yours and mine). Talk about the properties of light and the role of the designer
Assignment: Photo Project 1: Take five photos of **exterior** lighting moments and describe them in detail

Jan. 15 - PED 114E **Lab:** Introduction to the light lab
Assignment: Photo Project 2: Take five photos of **interior** lighting moments and describe them in detail

WEEK 2:

Jan. 20 **No Class**

Jan. 22 - SOS B45 **Lecture:** Continue discussion of lighting design and the properties of light
Assignment: None

WEEK 3:

Jan. 27 - SOS B45 **Discussion:** Discuss and present photo projects
Assignment: Understanding Lighting Instruments: Research 5 different types of theatrical lighting instruments. Provide images and descriptions of what they do and what makes them unique.

Jan. 29 - PED 114E **Lab:** Lighting tools - seeing different lighting types in action in the light lab
Assignment: None

WEEK 4:

Feb. 3 - SOS B45 **Lecture:** Understanding what a lighting designer does
Assignment: None

Feb. 5 - PED 114E **Lab:** Learning how to hang, circuit and focus lights
Assignment: Read play *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller

WEEK 5:

Feb. 10 - SOS B45 **Discussion:** *The Crucible* discussion
Assignment: None

Feb. 12 - PED 114E **Lab:** Learning how to hang, circuit and focus lights
Assignment: *The Crucible* play breakdown

WEEK 6:

Feb. 17 **No Class**

Feb. 19 - SOS B45 **Discussion:** Understanding scenic drafting
Assignment: Collect *The Crucible* research

WEEK 7:

Feb. 24 - SOS B45

Lecture: Collaboration and starting the lighting design process

Assignment: Begin *The Crucible* idea list

Feb. 26 - PED 114E

Lab: Lighting the body: understanding lighting angles

Assignment: Complete *The Crucible* idea list

WEEK 8:

March 2 - SOS B45

Discussion: Reviewing for the midterm

Assignment: None

March 4 - SOS B45

Test: Midterm

Assignment: None

WEEK 9:

March 9 - SOS B45

Discussion: *The Crucible* lighting ideas presentation 1

Assignment: None

March 11 - SOS B45

Discussion: *The Crucible* lighting ideas presentation 2

Assignment: None

WEEK 10:

March 16

No Class

March 18

No Class

WEEK 11:

March 23 - SOS B45

Discussion: Lighting architecture and scenery

Assignment: Photo Project 3: Take four photos of **one location with exterior lighting at four different times of day**. Include notes and sketches on your experiences

March 30 - PED 114E

Lab: Color light lab

Assignment: None

WEEK 12:

April 6 - SOS B45

Lecture: Understanding light plots

Assignment: None

April 8 - PED 114E

Lab: Cueing a show

Assignment: Read *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang

WEEK 13:

April 13 - SOS B45

Discussion: Discuss *M. Butterfly* by David Henry Hwang

Assignment: *M. Butterfly* light lab

April 15 - PED 114E

Lab: *M. Butterfly* light lab day 1

Assignment: See a show

WEEK 14:

April 20 - SOS B45

Discussion: Preparing for final project

Assignment: Lighting crit.

April 22 - PED 114E

Lab: *M. Butterfly* light lab day 2

Assignment: Work on final project

WEEK 15:

April 27 - SOS B45

Discussion: Preparing for final project

Assignment: Work on final project

April 29 - PED 114E

Lab: *M. Butterfly* light lab day 3

Assignment: Work on final project

Final Project Date:

The final project must be turned in no later than: **Monday, May 11 at 8am.**

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 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.

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 for DSP and contact information: (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) ability@usc.edu.

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. See the university’s site on Campus Safety and Emergency Preparedness.

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. 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. 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. 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: 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. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. 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. 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. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

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. diversity.usc.edu

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. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu