

USC School of Dramatic Arts

Theatre 241 Methods & Materials
Spring 2021 —Thursday—2-3:50pm
Location: [zoom mtg via blackboard](#)



Instructor: Sibyl Wickersheimer

Office: JEF 200

Office Hours: Wednesday 11am-12, or as scheduled with student individual. Office hours are by appointment only.

Contact Info: swicker@usc.edu

Course Description

Experience both digital 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 theatrical materials, artistic craft, and 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 (access via Blackboard & ARES)

Designer Drafting and Visualization for the Entertainment World, 2nd Edition by Patricia Woodbridge

Theatrical Design & Production: An Introduction to Scenic Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup, 7th Edition by J. Michael Gillette

Folding Techniques For Designers by Paul Jackson

The Art of Manipulating Fabric by Colette Wolff

Drawing & Rendering for Theatre by Clare P. Rowe

Model Making: Materials & Methods by David Neat

Online References

LinkedInLearning tutorials

Blackboard links to resources in Class Content Folder

PBS: Art 21 <http://www.pbs.org/program/art21/>

Eco Sets www.ecosetconsulting.com

The Green Theater www.thegreentheater.org

Broadway Green Alliance www.broadwaygreen.com

The Center for Sustainable Practice in the Arts www.sustainablepractice.org

Supplies

- Pick up fabric samples from outside TTL (prior to 2nd class) – email Bessie Lebeda at lebeda@usc.edu to set up a time for pick up during Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10am-5pm. She will be able to hand the materials to you through the fence on Vermont south of the Vermont Gate if you are unable to walk through campus. If pick up is not possible because you are outside of Los Angeles, please contact Bessie with your address and shipping will be planned.
- Sketchbook/notebook
- Various building supplies per project will include paper, foam core, Bristol board, matte board, etc
- Computer (Mac or PC) ideally should be able to run several graphics programs at one time.
- Extra monitor for your computer is going to be very helpful when using software while in class.

- Software: Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign, Bridge), Rhino 6 Educational edition, AutoCAD educational edition

Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

FILE NAMING SHOULD FOLLOW THIS PROTOCOL: S2020_241_Assignment_Name.filetype

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=69-60; 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

Pleating Assignment	10pts	
Soft Goods & Theatrical Fabric Quiz	10pts	
InDesign Assignment	10pts	
Photoshop Wall Elevation	10pts	
Digital Large-Scale Printing Assignment	10pts	
Digital Fabrication – 3d model	10pts	Rhino 6
Final Project	40 pts	
	10	Prelim Design, Research , materials list, steps, etc
	10	3d Model, rendering, orthographic drawings
	10	Scaled Physical model mock up, revisions
	10	Finished prototype and Final presentation
	100pts TOTAL	

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be turned in to the instructor during class sessions. For assignments that are digital files, the student should upload the file(s) to the class Google Drive folder. Files names should have the following format: S2020_241_Assignment_Name.filetype

	WEEKLY SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!!	
Week 1 Jan. 21	Course Intro Paper Pleating Exercise	Read: Gilette exerpt (on Blackboard) Folding Paper Techniques Ch 1 & 2, & ?
Week 2 Jan. 28	Theatrical Fabric Lecture Guest from Rosebrand curtain finishes , curtain types	Read: all Rosebrand Theatrical Fabrics resources online
Week 3 Feb 4	Pleating & folding to achieve shapes	Read: Art of Manipulating Fabric pdf Assign: Folding Paper Challenge
Week 4 Feb. 6	Fabrics Quiz Photoshop Demo	Assign: Photoshop tutorial Read: Rowe, Ch 15-18
Week 5 Feb. 11	Photoshop Work	Assign: Photoshop Wall Elevation Read: Rowe, Ch 19-21
Week 6 Feb. 18	Photoshop help	Due: Paint Elevation, upload to Google Dr Assign: InDesign tutorial Assign: Props Research
Week 7 Feb. 25	In Design Work Props Research & Deliverables Use Adobe InDesign to create props research document.	Assign: InDesign Assignment Read: Large Format Printing Article
Week 8 March 4	Large Format Printing Guest from Astek	Due: InDesign Assignment
Week 9 March 11	Lecture: Digital Fabrication Techniques Laser Cutter Demo	Due: Large Format Print Assignment Read: Woodbridge Ch.16, Digital Design, and Rowe ch 5
Week 10 March 18	CNC Cutter Demo	Assign: Rhino tutorial, Research and design of Final Project Read: TD&T article on Digital Design
Week 11 March 25	Rhino 3d Demo	Assign: Prelim ideas for Final Project
Week 12 April 1	Building from 3d Model/Orthographic Drawings	Due: 3d model exercise
Week 13 April 8	Discuss necessary revisions of physical models. File Prep for Laser Cutting and CNC Cutting.	Due: 3d model of Final Project Assign: Orthographic Drawings of Final Project, Revisions and File Prep
Week 14 April 15	3d printing Demo	Due: 1:1 Physical mock up Assign: Print 3d object

Week 15 April 22	Wellness Day – No Class	
Week 16 April 29	3d Printing/CNC work MEET IN SCENE SHOP	Due: Revisions to Physical mock up, revised drawings for fabrication of final project
FINAL EXAM May 6 2pm	Present Final Projects	Due: Fabricated Final Project and Presentation

Final Examination Date:

***Thursday, May 6, 2-4pm* PRESENTATION OF FINAL PROJECT**

Final projects must include digital fabrications techniques, hand fabrication techniques, surface treatment and use at least 2 different materials.

*******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, (213) 740-0776 (Phone), (213) 740-6948 (TDD only), (213) 740-8216 (FAX) 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 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.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR COMMITMENTS AND ISPS

Should you choose to participate in any extra-curricular project, such as an Independent Student Production, the SDA administration and faculty will not make allowances or exceptions for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, home work that is required as preparation for class, or lack of participation in class resulting from your extra-curricular involvement.

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" 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, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press "0" after hours – 24/7 on call

studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298

usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710

campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.