



USC University of Southern California

THTR 432b Scene Design II
Spring 2021—Wednesday—1-3:50pm
Units: 3
Location: [on zoom](#)

Instructor: Sibyl Wickersheimer
Office: [Virtual office](#)
Office Hours: Wednesday or Thursday appointment.
Replies to emails/calls will be within 48 hours.
Contact Info: swicker@usc.edu



Design for Blood Wedding by Lea Branyan 2016

Course Description

Evolution of scene design through analysis of script, environmental factors, and styles. Continuation of THTR 432A.

Learning Objectives

Students explore the dramatic relationship between text, space and performers through script analysis, development of visual ideas, methods of communication and execution as applied to scenic design. Techniques include research, sketching, drafting, model making, and presentations to communicate design ideas for performance based art forms. Emphasis will be placed on developing ideas, visuals, and strategies for strong presentations of design work. Discussions and lectures will cover professional practices for budgeting, planning, commitment to environmental concerns, and professional practices after graduation.

Required Readings and Supplementary Materials

***Please maintain a functioning Design lab account in order to utilize all digital tools and software available.**

Texts (available on Blackboard through pdf or ARES links unless otherwise noted):

Fefu & Her Friends by Maria Irene Fornes/*Blood Wedding* by Federico Garcia Lorca/

The Nether by Jennifer Haley

[Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process](#) by Liz Lerman and John Borstel

[Designer Drafting and Visualization for the Entertainment Industry](#), 2nd Edition by Patricia Woodbridge

[Drawing & Rendering for Theatre](#) by Clare P. Rowe

[Model Making: Conceive, Create and Convince](#) by Arjan Karssen & Bernard Otte

[Model Making: Materials and Methods](#) by David Neat

Film Reference

Anna Karenina, 2012

Supplies

- Sketchbook & pencil, every class
- Various model building supplies as needed, to be discussed per week, no need to purchase all at once
- Table/workspace, cutting mat, Exacto knife & blades, cutting rail ruler, architect's scale ruler

- Computer (Mac or PC) ideally should be able to run several graphics programs at same 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 or 7 Educational edition, AutoCAD educational edition, Vectorworks Educational

Assignment Submission Policy

Assignments will be brought to class and presented to the instructor during class sessions. For assignments that are digital files, the student should upload the file(s) as a PDF to the correct Google Drive folder. Files names should have the following format: **432b_S2020_ student name_project name** and be under **5MB** in size.

Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

Work in class will be 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. Students are expected to read materials in content folder on Blackboard pertaining to the weekly subject matter.

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. Attendance is mandatory as is being on time for class. Cell phones must be turned off and put away during classes. Please take notes on paper or laptops/tablets.

If your work in class is unsatisfactory (below C level), you will be warned when midterm grades are due. I am available to discuss your progress at any point during the semester, by appointment. I encourage you to make an appointment to meet with me occasionally during the semester for individual discussion about classwork.

The final course grade is based on the following scale:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59 and below

Point values are assigned to individual projects/assignments. Final grades will be based on points accumulated.

See Grading Rubric Sheet attached or in Blackboard with syllabus.

Assignments

Storyboarding Anna Karenina (film)			10pts
breakdown of sets & labor budget			10pts
Design for The Nether or Fefu or BW		40pts total	
	Research Package		5
	Prelim Design Process *includes rough storyboards & sketches, gestural model		10
	Design Presentation *includes white model and/or revised color model, storyboards, clear concept & communication, rough ground plan & section		15
	Deliverables * individual selection of one set piece for detailed drafting or isometric *Paint Elevation for one set piece or wall *rendering or collage of how projections play on set		10
Design for New Works Festival 3 Play		30 pts total	
	Prelim Design Process *research, rough storyboards/sketches, meet with director and playwright		10
	Design Presentation *includes white model, color renderings, clear concept & communication, rough ground plan & section		10
	Deliverables * Design package pdf includes concept statement, presentation of design through photos of model, renderings, storyboards		10
Participation	Attendance, Discussion, Collegiality, Work ethic		10pts
	TOTAL PTS		100pts

*******WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!*******

	https://publictheater.org/programs/under-the-radar/under-the-radar-2021/	Watch a free show at Under the Radar Festival online!
Week 1 Jan. 20	Course Intro Introductions Critical Response Process Anna Karenina film/Storyboarding	Assign: watch remainder of Anna Karenina (2012), storyboard a selected scene from the movie Read: Design Critique/ Liz Lerman's Critical Response Process (blackboard)
Week 2 Jan. 27	Discuss storyboards and Budget Breakdown Formats In Class: Budgeting exercise	Due: AK Storyboards Assign: Complete budget exercise and Budget Breakdown
Week 3 Feb. 3	Review Budget/Labor Breakdowns InDesign discussion for Research package	Due: AK Budget Breakdown Read: Fefu, Blood Wedding & The Nether Assign: Scene Breakdown, Research Read: Art Fundamentals – Perspective Sketching (blackboard)
Week 4 Feb. 10	Review/share research for both plays Gestural Model discussion Work on Gestural Models & Sketches	Due: Breakdowns of both plays, beginning research Read: Karssen/Otte Ch 1-2 Assign: Gestural model & Sketches
Week 5 Feb. 17	GUEST VISIT TBD Individual student meetings after break.	Due: In depth research and sources for selected play to design. (pdf) Read: Karssen/Otte Ch 1-3
Week 6 Feb. 24	Gestural model DUE Work on sketches, storyboards, next steps	Assign: Prelim Designs Read: Karssen/Otte Ch 1-4
Week 7 March 3	Prelim Design Due – present to class White model & storyboards	Assign: Final Designs Read: Drawing & Rendering/Rowe Ch5
Week 8 March 10	Model building demo	References: Model Making
Week 9 March 17	Color Model Due, rough plan & section Model Photo Session in Class	Assign: Model Storyboards (reference Karssen/Otte Ch 3)
Week 10 March 24	Model Photography - revisions Photoshop Techniques to enhance storyboards and renderings	Assign: Revisions to Designs

Week 11 March 31	Final Design Due - Design presentations	Due: Final Design Presentations Read: Drawing and Rendering/Rowe Ch. 15 Read: MFA NW3 Plays
	Attend online reading of NW3 Plays – date & time TBA	
Week 12 April 7	No Class – WELLNESS DAY	Read: Drawing and Rendering/Rowe Ch. 5 Read: MFA NW3 Plays
Week 13 April 14	Discuss MFA NW3 Plays 3d Modeling techniques	Assign: Breakdown/Research play. Create questions list, meet with playwright and/or director Read: Art Fundamentals – Light in Time
Week 14 April 21	3d modeling	Assign: turn rough sketches into a rough 3d model to digitally sketch over Read: Drawing & Rendering/Rowe Ch22-23
Week 15 April 28	3d modeling to rendering to storyboards	Assign: Design Presentation
Week 16 April 29	Individual meetings/ Work day	
FINAL EXAM May 5 2-4pm	Design presentations!	Invite Playwrights & Directors!?

*****WEEKLY SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!*****

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.