

USC School of Dramatic Arts



Theatre 241

Methods & Materials

Spring 2023 — Thursday — 2-3:50pm

Location: KAP 164

Instructor: Sibyl Wickersheimer

Physical Office: [JEF 200](#)

Virtual Office: [on zoom](#)

Office Hours: Thursday 12-2 by appointment only.

Replies to emails/calls will be within 48 hours.

Contact Info: sawicker@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 are available in Blackboard content folders including

LinkedInLearning tutorials and links to sustainable resources

Supplies

- Fabric samples (TBA, a small cost may be necessary per student)
- Sketchbook/notebook
- 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
 - Paper products will include Bristol paper, chip board, matt boards, foam core
 - Glue, push pins, drafting tape

- 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 Account (Photoshop, InDesign, Bridge), Rhino 6 or 7 Educational edition, AutoCAD educational edition, Vectorworks Educational
- Bing Design Lab account: maintaining a functioning Bing Design lab account will be sufficient to utilize all digital tools and software available.

Technological Proficiency and Hardware/Software Required

Digital tools and software that will be used throughout the semester include: Google Drive, Zoom, Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, InDesign, Bridge), AutoCAD, 3d modeling (Rhino/Sketchup/Vectorworks). It is necessary to have access to a computer or computer lab with sufficient capabilities to use these programs as well as for virtual access to class/class presentations. If you do not have access to a personal computer with the necessary software, *maintaining a functioning Bing Design lab account will be sufficient to utilize all digital tools and software available.*

Cell phones must be turned off and put away during classes. Please take notes on paper/sketchbooks or laptops/tablets.

Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments

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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.

Late assignments, projects, exams, papers, or exercises shall be accepted if previously discussed 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.

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

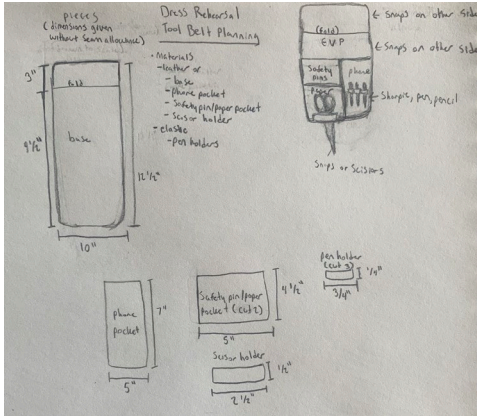
D=69-60; F=59 or below.

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. See p.7 rubric chart for more details.

Below Project is a tool pouch created by Elle Patrick.



Assignments/Quizzes

Folding Assignment	10 pts	
Pattern Assignment	10 pts	
Soft Goods & Theatrical Fabric Quiz	40 pts	
Photoshop rendering	10 pts	
Production photography, #1 & 2	10 pts (5 pts each)	
Photoshop photo touch up	10 pts	
InDesign Assignment	10 pts	
Digital Large-Scale Printing Assignment	10pts	
Digital Fabrication – 3d model	10pts (Rhino – 3 tutorials)	
Final Project	(40 pts Total)	
	10	Prelim Design, Research , materials list, steps, etc
	10	3d Model & rendering, orthographic drawings
	10	Scaled Physical model mock up, revisions
	10	Completed Prototype and Presentation – Final Exam Day
TOTAL PTS	160	

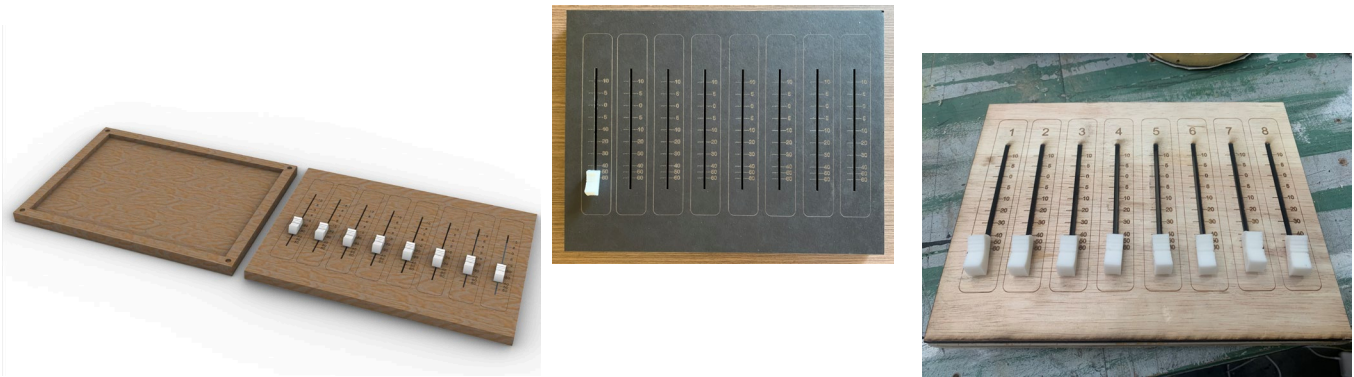
Assignment Submission Policy

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. File names should have the following format: S2020_241_Assignment_Name.filetype

Final Examination Date:

Thursday, May 5, 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.



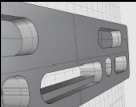
Above project was board created to practice sliding levels for sound mixing board operator. Created by Renata Filmore.

Below project was a finger strengthening hang board. Created by Monica Kosmos.

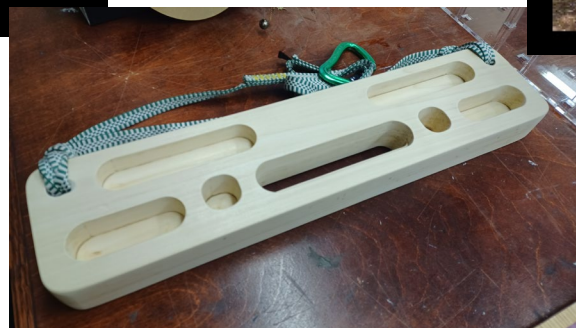
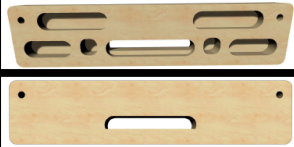
1. CAD drafting



2. Rhino: Extrusion + Boolean Difference



3. Rhino: Render with Wood Material



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

Week 1 Jan. 12	Course Intro Bing Lab resources Paper Pleating Exercise	Read: Gillette excerpt (on Blackboard) Folding Paper Techniques Ch 1 & 2 Assign: Complete 5 folded paper techniques & upload photos Step 1 of Pattern Assignment - Find the shape
Week 2 Jan. 19 ON ZOOM	Pleating & folding to achieve 3 dimensionality and structural integrity Theatrical Fabric Lecture Photoshop demo – for pattern assignment	Read: Art of Manipulating Fabric.pdf Assign: Step 2 of Pattern Assignment – Layout line work in Photoshop and test fold
Week 3 Jan 26 ON ZOOM	Theatrical Fabric Lecture (con't) curtain finishes , curtain types Drape exercise (in class, finish as homework)	Read: all Rosebrand Theatrical Fabrics resources online Assign: Drapery exercise, Photoshop tutorial, Upload pattern for classmates/print in Bing Design Lab.
Week 4 Feb. 2	Specialty fabric, Large Format Printing, Drapery specifications Drape exercise (in class, finish as homework)	Read: Rowe, Ch 15-18 Assign: Rowe exercises, Photoshop tutorial, study for quiz
Week 5 Feb. 9	Fabrics Quiz Photoshop demo	Assign: Photoshop Rendering Read: Rowe, Ch 19-21
Week 6 Feb. 16	Digital Photography Photoshop work	Due: Photoshop rendering Assign: Production Photography Assignment, InDesign tutorial
Week 7 Feb. 23	Photoshop techniques touching up photos InDesign Work Use Adobe InDesign to create a research document and/or portfolio page. TBD Location	Due: Production Photos #1 Assign: InDesign Assignment Read: Large Format Printing Article
Week 8 March 2	Photoshop techniques touching up photos Large format printing TBD Location	Due: Production Photos #2 Work on: InDesign Assignment
Week 9 March 9	Lecture: Digital Fabrication Techniques CNC Cutter Demo &/or Laser Cutter Demo TBD Location	Due: InDesign Assignment Read: Woodbridge Ch.16, Digital Design, and Rowe ch 5 Assign: Rhino tutorial
Week 10 March 16	No Class -- Spring Break	
Week 11 March 23	Rhino 3d CNC Cutter Demo &/or Laser Cutter Demo TBD Location	Assign: Rhino tutorial, Research and design of Final Project Read: TD&T article on Digital Design

Week 12 March 30	Rhino 3d Demo 3d printing Demo TBD Location	Due: 3d model tutorials Assign: Prelim ideas for Final Project Assign: Print 3d object
Week 13 April 6	Building from 3d Model/Orthographic Drawings MEET IN BING DESIGN LAB	Due: 3d model exercise
Week 14 April 13	TBD Location TBD Soldering Workshop!	Due: 3d model of Final Project Assign: Orthographic Drawings of Final Project, Revisions and File Prep
Week 15 April 20	Discuss necessary revisions of physical models. File Prep for Laser Cutting and CNC Cutting.	Due: 1:1 Physical mock up
Week 16 April 27	3d Printing/CNC work TBD Location	Due: Revisions to Physical mock up, revised drawings for fabrication of final project
FINAL EXAM May 4 2pm	Present Final Projects	Due: Fabricated Final Project and Presentation

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

Rubric & Corresponding Grade	A	B	C	D	F
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Criteria					
Creativity	Work is exceptional, unique, decisive. Shows evidence of deep understanding of material and concepts introduced in class. Creativity shown in completion of assignment.	Work is generally unique and thoughtful in approach. Evidence of understanding of material and concepts introduced in class. Some creative risks taken in completion of assignment.	Work is somewhat unique and shows a basic level of conceptual thinking. Few creative risks taken in completion of assignment, opportunities missed.	Work is occasionally unique but shows a lack of conceptual thinking. Very few or no creative risks taken.	Work is not unique and lacks conceptual thought. Does not show original ideas.
Exploration of Tools and Skills presented in class	Work shows exceptional understanding of technical elements and application of the tools learned in class.	Work shows good understanding of technical elements and application of the tools learned in class.	Work shows a basic understanding of technical element and application of the tools learned in class.	Work shows little understanding of technical elements and application of the tools learned in class.	No understanding of technical elements or application of the tools learned in class.
Craftsmanship	Work is done with exceptional care and attention to detail.	Work is done with good care and attention to detail.	Work is done with only some care and attention to detail.	Work is done with little care and details are not considered.	Work is done carelessly.
Completion of project	Assignment is followed. All work is complete and on time.	Assignment is followed. Most work is complete and on time.	Assignment is generally followed. Some of the work is complete and on time.	Assignment is generally followed but most of the work is incomplete or late.	Assignment is not followed and inadequately completed.
Participation and effort	Work shows exceptional focus, effort and planning. Participated in all class discussions.	Work shows good focus, effort and planning. Participated in most class discussions.	Work shows some focus, effort and planning. Participated in some class discussions.	Work shows minimal focus, effort and planning. Barely participated in class discussions.	Work shows a lack of focus, effort and planning. No participation in class discussions.

SDA PRODUCTIONS, ISPS, AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SDA productions, ISPs and Extracurricular Activities* will not excuse you from any class work. There will be no exceptions made for absences in class, missed or delayed assignments, homework or lack of class participation resulting from your involvement in any of the above. Your grade will reflect your work in this class, independent from work in any other class or activity.

*Activities that have been officially sanctioned by the larger university (such as marching band, song girls, or varsity sports) are exempt. You must submit official documentation to your professor regarding your participation in an event prior to your absence.

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, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

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 GFS 120 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) 814-4618 (Vidoe Phone), (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.

Equity, Diversity & Inclusion + Intimacy in Theater Consent Culture Statement:

Through our pluralistic approach of diverse pedagogies, methodologies, ideologies, and modalities of artistic expression, we invite(engage) and challenge students to expand their breadth and depth of knowledge, complexity, and range of the human experience. Even though we nurture, guide, and challenge our students to embrace the unknown or unfamiliar and step outside of their comfort zones through storytelling/art, we aim to practice effective strategies and offer tools to students mindful of their physical, psychological, social, and emotional wellbeing. In alignment with professional and industry standards, we will integrate core principles and techniques of Intimacy in Theater and Building Cultures of Affirmative Consent. This will provide agency, offer resources and support to the teachers, students, directors, and staff to establish healthy boundaries of consent when working on material that is physically, intimately, or emotionally charged content in both the classroom and production.

SDA Student Support & Reporting Form:

To facilitate a supportive environment of accountability, SDA has created an internal system of reporting for students to address issues/concerns and to offer feedback or suggestions for improvement. This mechanism provides a pathway for reporting and offering feedback without fear of retaliation or judgment. Any submission filed through this form will be reviewed and processed accordingly through SDA Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

To file a report, please visit: <http://bit.ly/sdasupport>

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 Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776
<https://osas.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.