

USC School of Dramatic Arts

THTR 435 – Advanced Theatrical Drafting

Units: 3

Spring 2025 — Tuesday — 9am – 11:50am

Location: BING THEATER Design Lab

3506 McClintock Ave

Instructor: MICHAEL KRAMER

Office Hours: BY APPOINTMENT

Contact Info: kramermi@usc.edu

Course Description

Advanced Theatrical Drafting is a beginners/intermediate level course for students learning to use computer aided design and drafting (CAD). Students will deepen their understanding of drafting language and learn the fundamentals of AutoCAD. Through a series of exercises students will learn how to effectively communicate their designs with technical drawings. The final project, due at the end of the semester, will be a full package of drawings that students can include in their portfolio. The course utilizes weekly assignments and tutorials; some assignments will be reviewed in class for open critique. Emphasis will be placed on understanding drafting language, control of the drafting software, problem solving and self-motivation.

Assignments

Weekly assignments must be completed fully and on-time to guarantee success in the learning experience and in the course. Students will be given instructions on how to submit their work in a specific format for each assignment.

Supplies and Equipment

Notebook and pen for notes

Sketchbook and Pencils

Computer: own laptop or Design Lab computer

AutoCAD 2016 or newer, free Educational version (already installed on Design Lab)

Mouse with two separate buttons and wheel

Adobe Acrobat

Design Lab account

Readings and Required Texts

Designer Drafting and Visualizing for the Entertainment World. Patricia Woodbridge & Hal Tine.

Grading Criteria

In all projects, students will be required to understand and demonstrate the fundamentals of representational media (drafting graphics) in visual communication. The assignments will also require fundamental notions of handcrafting and AutoCAD drafting. Work will be evaluated periodically so that students have an indication of progress. Unsatisfactory performance warnings will be issued to students whose work does not meet the minimum requirements. University guidelines on plagiarism pertain to drafting work. Students are expected to do all of their own presentation work. Substantial assistance in the form of drawing preparation, or deliberate appropriation of the work of others will be considered non-original work and will be treated as plagiarism. See "Academic Integrity" section below for more information.

Grading Breakdown

Final grade evaluations will be based on the following breakdown:

70% Assignments

15% Final Project

15% Participation

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 Scale

Letter grade	Corresponding numerical point range
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

Attendance

This course is strongly based on class attendance and week to week progress. It is essential and required for all students to be on time and present for all classes and tutorials. Lateness and absences will be recorded and can seriously affect course grades. A maximum number of two absences are allowed without direct impact to the student's grade. A student's overall semester evaluation may be lowered by up to a full letter grade for each additional absence. Any student not in class within the first 15 minutes of class is considered late. Three instances of lateness equal one absence. Any student absent for more than 1/3 of any class period (in any form including lateness, sleep, technological distraction, bathroom break, etc.) will be considered absent. It is always the student's responsibility to seek the means and make up for work missed due to any type of absence. The University recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation.

See: <http://jorl.usc.edu/religiouslife/holydays/>

Office Hours

Office Hours will be immediately after class on Tuesdays 12pm to 1pm. Make an appointment minimum 18 hours in advance via email at kramermi@usc.edu

Academic Integrity

The University of Southern California is foremost a learning community committed to fostering successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the transmission of ideas. Academic misconduct is in contrast to the university's mission to educate students through a broad array of first-rank academic, professional, and extracurricular programs and includes any act of dishonesty in the submission of academic work (either in draft or final form).

This course will follow the expectations for academic integrity as stated in the [USC Student Handbook](#). All students are expected to submit assignments that are original work and prepared specifically for the course/section in this academic term. You may not submit work written by others or “recycle” work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s). Students suspected of engaging in academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Other violations of academic misconduct include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see the [student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity’s website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

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.

Course schedule: *Subject to change*

	Topics/Daily Activities	Readings/Preparation	Deliverables
Class 1 Jan 14	Discuss Syllabus, discuss basic goals / communication with drafting, Software introduction - open / look around ACAD		Hand sketch Basic 2D drafting with Toy wood blocks. Explore line, circle, arc, rectangle tools
Class 2 Jan 21	Model Space, Units, Limits, Coordinates, Continue Basic Drafting tools – Modifiers	Read: Ch. 3&5 in Woodbridge text	Basic Cad tools Continued Draw Polygon Cad Exercises
Class 3 Jan 28	Orthographic Discussion / Drafting Review GP, Section, Elevation, etc. Line types and graphic standards	Review Ch. 3 and Read Ch 7 & 11	Create simple Orthographic Drawings- <i>Discuss Ground Plans Homework: Offsite site survey - hand sketch</i>
Class 4 Feb 4	Site survey of room, Draft Ground Plan in Model Space	***ZOOM Class*** DUE: Hand Sketch Offsite site survey!!	Draft Bedroom Groundplan from hand sketch Site survey in AutoCAD & Replicate Venue Ground Plan in CAD
Class 5 Feb 11	File organizations/Organize Line Types, Line Weights, Layers, Paper Space Set up Plot DWG to PDF	DUE: Assignment - Venue Ground Plan	Simple Set design Ground Plan & ACAD Template.dwt
Class 6 Feb 18	Title Blocks, Standards, required information Model Space vs. Paper space	DUE: Simple Set design Ground Plan	Shipswheel & Create your own Title Blocks, Letter, l1x17, Arch D, Arch E, add to previous assignments
Class 7 Feb 25	Annotations, Text, Dimensions, Labels, Symbols, Scale, AutoCAD Printing from Paperspace	Read: Chapters 9 & 10	Text, Dimensions Add annotations to your previous assignments. And PDF Print the previous assignments using appropriate sized sheets.
Class 8 Mar 4	Importing / scaling – Generate drawing from imported pdf	***ZOOM Class***	Basic Tracing – Ground Plan / Section Le Petit Theatre
Class 9 Mar 11	Drawing organic, and unique objects in detail. Spline. Importing images and references.	***ZOOM Class***	Assignment: Spline drawing Draft Simple wall Elevations
<i>Spring Recess</i>	*****	<i>Mar 16 – Mar 23</i>	*****
Class 10 Mar 25	Hatches, imported CAD blocks from manufactures	***ZOOM Class*** DUE: Spline drawing	Hatches exercise & Imported CAD block exercise
Class 11 April 1	Dynamic Blocks, Create your own Dynamic Blocks	***ZOOM Class***	Dynamic Block exercise
Class 12 April 8	Isometric drawing. Concept and AutoCAD.	Read Isometric Projection - 12.9	AutoCAD isometric drawing
Class 13 April 15	Discuss basics of 3D drafting - Extrude, Orbit, Subtract, Union		3d AutoCAD – ISO's Redrawn in 3d Discuss Final
Class 14 April 22	Discuss Finals Project, Set up GP, Section, FE, Details Plate, Shift Plot, Viewports, Layers	DUE at Beginning of Class: All previous assignments Completed	Start drafting for final project
Class 15 April 29	Final Project		Final Project drafting - Review FE of Walls Generate Section & GP, Shift Plot, Details Plate
	<i>Study days</i> <i>May 3 - 6</i>		MEETING BY APPOINTMENTS ONLY
FINAL May 13	Final Exam May 13th		

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Integrity:

The University of Southern California is a learning community committed to developing successful scholars and researchers dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and the dissemination of ideas. Academic misconduct, which includes any act of dishonesty in the production or submission of academic work, compromises the integrity of the person who commits the act and can impugn the perceived integrity of the entire university community. It stands in opposition to the university's mission to research, educate, and contribute productively to our community and the world.

All students are expected to submit assignments that represent their own original work, and that have been prepared specifically for the course or section for which they have been submitted. You may not submit work written by others or "recycle" work prepared for other courses without obtaining written permission from the instructor(s).

Other violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabrication (e.g., falsifying data), collusion, knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty, and any act that gains or is intended to gain an unfair academic advantage.

The impact of academic dishonesty is far-reaching and is considered a serious offense against the university. All incidences of academic misconduct will be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity and could result in outcomes such as failure on the assignment, failure in the course, suspension, or even expulsion from the university.

For more information about academic integrity see [the student handbook](#) or the [Office of Academic Integrity's website](#), and university policies on [Research and Scholarship Misconduct](#).

Please ask your instructor if you are unsure what constitutes unauthorized assistance on an exam or assignment, or what information requires citation and/or attribution.

Students and Disability Accommodations:

USC welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. [The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter disability-related barriers. Once a student has completed the OSAS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and accommodations are determined to be reasonable and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be available to generate for each course. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at osas.usc.edu. You may contact OSAS at (213) 740-0776 or via email at osasfrontdesk@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: <https://bit.ly/SDAstudentreporting>

Support Systems:

[Counseling and Mental Health](#) - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

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

[988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) - 988 for both calls and text messages – 24/7 on call

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline (formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline) provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States. The Lifeline is comprised of a national network of over 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices. The new, shorter phone number makes it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services (though the previous 1 (800) 273-8255 number will continue to function indefinitely) and represents a continued commitment to those in crisis.

[Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services \(RSVP\)](#) - (213) 740-9355(WELL) – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender- and power-based harm (including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking).

[Office for Equity, Equal Opportunity, and Title IX \(EEO-TIX\)](#) - (213) 740-5086

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

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

[The Office of Student Accessibility Services \(OSAS\)](#) - (213) 740-0776

OSAS ensures equal access for students with disabilities through providing academic accommodations and auxiliary aids in accordance with federal laws and university policy.

[USC Campus Support and Intervention](#) - (213) 740-0411

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

[Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) - (213) 740-2101

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

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) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

Non-emergency assistance or information.

[Office of the Ombuds](#) - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)

A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options or paths to manage your concern.

[Occupational Therapy Faculty Practice](#) - (323) 442-2850 or otfp@med.usc.edu

Confidential Lifestyle Redesign services for USC students to support health promoting habits and routines that enhance quality of life and academic performance.