# USC School of Dramatic Arts

THTR 437-6314D, Scene Painting Spring 2025

Tuesdays & Thursdays 12 pm to 1:50 pm Location: Technical Theatre Lab

## Instructor: Jenny Guthrie

Office: Via Phone at (661) 755-2415 Office Hours: After Class and by appointment Contact Info: Cell: (661) 755-2415 (texting & calls should be the method of contact for appointments) Email: jlguthri@usc.edu (If you are emailing me something, please notify me via text first.)

#### **Course Description and Overview**

Techniques, materials, and equipment of the scenic artist including both historic and modern methods

#### **Learning Objectives**

This course will provide a basic knowledge and understanding of theatrical scenic painting techniques through lecture demonstrations, reading materials, in-class labs, and painting assignments. Students will explore materials and tools, color theory and mixing, and a variety of theatrical painting techniques.

Prerequisite(s): none Co-Requisite (s): none Concurrent Enrollment: none Recommended Preparation: painting and drawing experience

#### **Required Readings and Supplementary Materials**

Will be provided in class.

#### **Description of Grading Criteria and Assessment of Assignments**

Work in class will be "hands on" and project based. All projects will be graded using a point system. Students will receive a letter grade with a possible plus or minus and are responsible for handing in assignments on time regardless of any missed classes. Due dates will be announced each class meeting and are subject to change.

Class participation will be crucial to understanding in-class exercises. Each project will be graded according to its complexity and time devotion. Each project will be worth a specific number of points (see valve below)

**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**

75% on Assignments including presentation of your portraits during the final exam period (20%) 15% on Development and Attitude

10% on Participation and Attendance

Grade calculations are derived from a combination of elements. A large part of the grade is the cumulative points from the assignments throughout the semester. Students will also be evaluated based on their individual participation, their personal development, and willingness to help with the class clean-up process.

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=69-70, F=59 or below

Point values are assigned to individual projects/assignments. Final grades will be based on points accumulated from assignments (75% of final grade) as well as individual development (15% of final grade) and participation/attendance (10% of final grade). There shall be no unexcused absences.

Color project	5 pts	5%
Cartoon Character	5 pts	5%
Textures	5 pts	5%
Brick	5 pts	5%
Wood/Marble	5 pts	5%
Relief	5 pts	5%
Stencil	5 pts	5%
Painter's Elevation	5 pts	5%
Portrait Painting	20pts	20%
Group Painting	15pts	15%

# **Assignment Submission Policy**

Assignments will be turned in during class due days which are subject to change depending on the work progress of the class as a whole group.

# **Additional Policies**

No Late assignments will be accepted unless advance extensions have been arranged between the student and the teacher or unless exceptional circumstances occur: injury, long-lasting illness, or loss in the family. Grades on assignments will be lowered by at least one letter grade if they are not turned in by the assigned deadline. If the student did not finish his/her part in the collaborative paint elevation or did not participate equally, his/her final letter grade will be lowered one letter grade.

CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF AND PUT AWAY DURNING CLASS!

# **USC Mask Policy**

Be alert to the university's mask policy. If required, it is highly recommended to wear a medical grade masks which at minimum are surgical masks and may also include higher grade respirator masks (N95, KN95, or KF94). Please refer to "USC Student Health" in regard to Quarantine and Isolation for those that are either exposed or test positive for COVID.

#### **Course Schedule: A Weekly Breakdown**

#### Week #1 (Jan. 14 and 16)

Introduction: Syllabus and Ice Breakers, Introduction to the paint shop & different tools used. Color theory

Week #2 (Jan. 21 & 23)

Cartooning Project

#### Week #3 (Jan. 28 & 30)

Cartooning Project Practice Color Mixing

#### Week #4 (Feb. 4 & 6)

Lecture & practice on brush and roller techniques, wet blending, washes and glazes, scumbling, spattering, flogging, stippling, sponging, and garden sprayers. Practice different techniques.

#### Week #5 (Feb. 11 & 13)

Lecture and work on brick painting, Wood, and Marble <u>Cartooning Project Due (Feb.13<sup>th</sup>)</u>

#### Week #6 (Feb. 18 & 20)

Lecture and Work on Stencil Project <u>Turn in Brick Painting, Wood and Marble Due (Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>)</u>

Week #7 (Feb. 25 & 27)

**Stencil Project** 

#### Week #8 (March 4 & 6)

Lecture and work on Textures and Reliefs Stencil Project Due (March 6th)

#### Week #9 (March 11 & 13)

Lecture on Painter's Elevations and Introduce Portraits

Week #10 (March 18 & 20) Spring Break

## Week #11 (March 25 & 27)

Portraits

Turn in Texture Project and Relief Projects (March 27st)

#### Week #12 (April 1 &3) Portraits

Turn in Painter's Elevations (April 3<sup>rd</sup>))

#### Week #13 (April 8 & 10) Introduce Group Landscape Project Work on Portraits

Week #14 (April 15 & 17) Group Landscaping Painting Project

Week #15 (April 22 & 24) Work on Group Landscape Painting

Week #16 (April 29 & May 1) Course Evaluations. Work on Portraits and/or Landscape Painting.

Wednesday, May 14th: 2-4 pm is your Final Exam Time, and students will be presenting their final two projects.

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

#### **Final Examination Date:**

The final exam time is Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2 pm to 4 pm. All students are required to be present during the final exam time for a final discussion and hand-in final projects.

Please note it is your responsibility to contact the testing office at (213) 740-7166 if you have multiple exams on one day in advance to ensure you will be present for your final exam period.

Important: In addition to in-class contact hours, all courses must also meet a minimum standard for out-of class time which accounts for time students spend on homework, readings, writing, and other academic activities. For each unit in-class contact time, the university expects two hours of out of class student work per week over a semester.

## **SDA PRODUCTIONS**

SDA productions are courses and therefore do not supersede any other courses in which you are enrolled. When in an SDA production, students must not register for evening classes that conflict with regularly scheduled rehearsals. In short, being involved in an SDA production is a curricular assignment and must be treated as any other curricular assignment.

## 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" <u>policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b</u>. 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 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.

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#### **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. <u>engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling</u>

#### 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. <u>engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp</u>

#### 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: <u>sarc.usc.edu</u>

*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. <u>equity.usc.edu</u>

#### Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. <u>studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support</u>

#### The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

5 of 6 THTR 437- Scene Painting Syllabus

#### 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. <u>studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa</u>

#### 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. <u>diversity.usc.edu</u>

#### 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. <u>emergency.usc.edu</u>

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. <u>dps.usc.edu</u>

# <u>Class Materials: only to be purchased if we were</u> going to go on Zoom due to COVID

- From Blick Art Materials (online and possibly in your local Blick Store): 16 oz bottles of Acrylic Essentials in the following colors: 2 bottles of White, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber, Raw Sienna, Raw Umber, Red Oxide, Black, Cobalt Blue, Cool Blue, Cool Red, Cool Yellow, Green, Green Deep, Orange, Purple, Warm Red, Warm Yellow (\$6.20 each for ordering more than 12)
- 2) From Blick Art Materials: Royal Super Value Sponge Set (\$5.29)
- 3) From Blick Art Materials:
  - A) Blick Essentials Value Brush Set-Round Brushes, Bristle, Set of 12 (\$6.15)
  - B) Blick Essentials Value Brush Set Utility Brushes, Bristle, Set of 3 (short handle) (\$3.75)
  - C) Blick Essentials Value Brush Set-Flat Brushes, Bristle, Set of 12 (long handle (\$6.15)
  - D) Blick Economy White Bristle Stencil Brush (Set of 3) (\$3.46)
- 4) From Blick Art Materials: 2 Black Permanent Sharpie Markers (\$2.09)
- 5) From Blick Art Materials: Blick Painter's Tape (3/4") (\$5.81)
- 6) From Blick Art Materials: X-Acto #1 Knife (\$4.49)
- 7) From Blick Art Materials: Grafix Stencil Film (4 Matte Sheets) (\$6.18)
- 8) From Amazon: The book; *Impressionism (Bibliotheca Universalis)*; Hardcover; June 8, 2016; by Ingo F. Walther and published by Taschen (used \$9.69/new \$20.00)
- From Amazon: Milo Canvas Panel Boards for Painting (16" x 20")/12 pack @ \$44.90
- 10) Many coverable small plastic take-out or cottage cheese or sour cream or deli type containers