

Eastern Illinois University  
Department of Theatre Arts  
Fall Semester 2012  
**THA 2211: Stagecraft**

Instructor: Nicholas Shaw  
2043 Doudna Fine Arts Center  
581-5958                      [neshaw@eiu.edu](mailto:neshaw@eiu.edu)  
Office Hours:                TR     11:00am to 12:15pm  
   F     9:00 to 10:30am  
   Also by appointment

Class Meets:                MWF 11:00 - 12:40  
   Doudna Fine Arts Center 1019 - 1011  
   Lab Hours TBD

Text:                         Theatrical Design and Production, 4th edition by J. Michael Gillette  
   New York Times Theatre Articles online

Class Description:        (3-3-3) The basic techniques required for the construction, painting, rigging, and shifting of scenery with emphasis on safety and on standard backstage and scene shop organization and procedures.

Credit Hours:             3.00  
Course Fee:                \$40.00

### Conduct of the Course

1. **Lecture/Lab/Demonstration**- This class will be taught through lecture, lab and discussion. Each will hold equal value. The students will dictate the environment of the classroom. Discussions on all intelligent topics, no matter how remotely related to the theatre, are encouraged in this class. Students must successfully pass the Safety Exam before allowed to work in the shop. Supervised work in the shop is a portion of your grade and these hours must be completed specifically for this class. We will develop a sign-up sheet and schedule for week-to-week work on Lab hours. Failure to attend agreed upon hours will result in loss of lab hour credit.
2. **Attendance**- Attendance at all class meetings is expected. Three unexcused absences will be permitted. Tests missed on those days cannot be made up (unless the instructor has prior notification). Absences for approved University events and serious illness are excused. In addition, the student will lose 100 POINTS PER ABSENCE over the allotted number (3). Class begins promptly at 11:00am. Students not in class at 11:00am will be considered tardy, students arriving after 11:10am will be considered absent. Two tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence. Students are required to see all three faculty directed productions this semester, *Strindberg Café*, *Almost Maine*, and *Christmas Carol*. A student ticket is \$5.00.
3. **Academic Accommodation**- If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services at 581-6583
4. **Academic Integrity**- Committing plagiarism by copying the words or the original ideas of another

person without giving that person full and proper credit is an especially serious violation of the University academic dishonesty policy. If you violate this policy you will be reported immediately for disciplinary action. The complete standards of student conduct can be accessed at [www.eiu.edu/~judicial/code.html](http://www.eiu.edu/~judicial/code.html).

5. **Cell Phones**- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. This is a courtesy to your fellow students and myself. This includes TEXTING! Also, headphones are not allowed unless I give permission during an open work session.

6. **Paper writing**- All papers submitted in this class must have 1.5 spacing and 1" margins on all sides. The font must be 12 point Times New Roman or Arial. Please put your name on each page of a multiple page paper.

7. **Desire2Learn** – All assignments and grades can be viewed on our class Desire2Learn site. All written assignments can be turned in on Desire2Learn. <http://www.eiu.edu/eiuonline/>

## Assignments

1. **Reaction Papers**- Students are required to see all university productions. A 2 page critique on the technical aspects of the production will be due the Friday after it closes.

2. **NYT Articles**- Five articles must be chosen throughout the semester. The article will be chosen and brought in to class for discussion. The next week a one-page discussion of the article must be turned in with the article. The paper must focus on the technical aspects of the article.

3. **Artist's Statement**- Create a 2 page statement about yourself as an artist. Explain what being a theatre artist means to you. Include experiences from your past.

4. **Home Depot Field Trip**- There will be a group project at Home Depot this semester. Date and time TBD.

5. **Theatre Production Project**- a group project involving the planning of a theoretical production.

6. **Research Paper**- This will be a 3 to 5 page research paper on some aspect of stagecraft or design. Topics should be chosen by midterm and approved by the instructor.

7. **Foam Project**- a 1' x 1' carved foam tile. Students will be given a line drawing, which they will transfer to the foam. The student will then render a 3-D version of the line drawing.

8. **Final Project**- a 4'x4' Flat. Students will draft, build and paint a flat.

9. **Quizzes**- Four quizzes will be given over material covered.

10. **Exams**- there will be a midterm and final exam.

## Grading

1. Assignments will be due on Friday of each week. They will be graded within one week of turn in date. Students will have the opportunity to raise their grades by reworking projects and turning them in during finals week. Late projects will reduced one letter grade and cannot be raised by resubmitting. No assignment will be accepted over a week late.

2. Projects will be critiqued and discussed in class. We will work through each phase of a project throughout the semester and portions of a project will be due prior to the final due date for the project. This is designed to help you keep up with the work throughout the semester. The project discussions are extremely important and will be part of your grade on each project.

3. Students are graded based on their ability to complete each assignment, their growth during the project, on craftsmanship, and on the merit of the design; in that order. A project that fulfills the requirements set forth by the instructor will be guaranteed a C. A project that shows growth in craftsmanship or the artistry of design will merit a better grade.

Attendance and Attitude.....	150 pts
Lab Hours (50 @ 5 pts each).....	250 pts
NYT Articles (5 @ 50 pts each).....	250 pts
Reaction Papers (3 @ 50 pts. each).....	150 pts
Quizzes (4 @ 50 pts each).....	200 pts
Midterm Exam .....	100 pts
Final Exam .....	200 pts
Artist's Statement.....	100 pts
Home Depot Project.....	100 pts
Theatre Production Project.....	100 pts
Research Paper.....	100 pts
Foam Project.....	100 pts
Final Project.....	200 pts
TOTAL POINTS.....	2000 pts

A = 90%+ of total points.....1800 – 2000

B = 80-89% of total points....1600 - 1799

C = 70-79% of total points...1400 - 1599

D = 60-69% of total points...1200 - 1399

F = 59% and less.....under 1199

Extra Credit: There are a number of ways to earn extra credit points.

1. Put in extra lab hours in the shop. Each extra hour earns 5 points to a maximum of 100 points.
2. Contact the instructor and join a backstage crew for a departmental production. Please note; crew positions are limited. Write a two to three page paper describing the experience and receive up to 50 points.