

Eastern Illinois University
Department of Theatre Arts
Fall Semester 2016
THA 2211: Stagecraft

Instructors:	Nicholas Shaw	2043 Doudna Fine Arts Center neshaw@eiu.edu
Office Hours:		MW 12:40 to 1:40pm T 9:00am to 11:00am also by apmt
	Christopher Gadomski	2045 Doudna Fine Arts Center cgadomski@eiu.edu
Office Hours:		MTWR 11:00 to 12:00pm
Class Meets:	MWF 9:00-10:40am Doudna Fine Arts Center 1019-1011 Lab Hours TBD	
Text:	Theatrical Design and Production, 7th edition by J. Michael Gillette New York Times theatre articles online and/or Stage Directions Magazine	
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	
Course Objectives:	1. Students will learn and use safe technical theatre practices. 2. Students will attain an understanding of professional technical theatre practices. 3. Students will understand how technical theatre fits into the overall theatre dynamic.	

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 topics 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.

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 9:00am. Students not in class at 9:00am will be considered tardy. Three tardies will be counted as an unexcused absence. Students are required to see all departmental productions. 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- The Student Code of Conduct States:

Eastern students observe the highest principles of academic integrity and supports a campus environment conducive to scholarship.

Violations of the standard:

1. Conduct in subversion of academic standards, such as cheating on examinations, plagiarism, collusion, misrepresentation or falsification of data.
2. Theft or the unauthorized possession of examinations; alteration, theft, or destruction of the academic work of others, or academic records, library materials, laboratory materials, or other University equipment or property related to instructional matters or research.
3. Submitting work previously presented in another course unless specifically permitted by the instructor.
4. Conduct which disrupts the academic environment; disruption in classes, faculty offices,academic buildings, or computer facilities.

Complicity with others in violations of this standard.

The entire Student Code of Conduct is available at www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php

5. Cell Phones- Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Headphones are not allowed in class. This is a courtesy to those around you and is the industry standard for a safe work environment.

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/eionline/>

Assignments

1. Reaction Papers- Students are required to see all departmental productions. A critique on the design and technical aspects of the production will be due the Monday after it closes. Critique must be at least 2 full pages.
2. Technical Theatre Articles- Four articles from the Theatre Arts section of the New York Times and/or Stage Directions Magazine must be chosen throughout the semester. A one-page discussion 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 explaining what being a theatre artist means to you. Include experiences from your past and how this class can further your journey as an artist.
4. Home Depot Field Trip- There will be a group project at Home Depot this semester. Date and time TBD.
5. TD Project- a group project involving the planning of a theoretical production.
6. Research Paper- This will be a 5-page research paper on some aspect of stagecraft or design. Topics should be chosen by midterm and approved by the instructor.
7. Wooden Box Project- Students will build a small wooden box, created from a set of draftings.
8. 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.
9. Scenic Painting Project- Students will be given a line drawing, which they will scale and transfer to a 4' x 4' flat. Color Theory will be explored in the project as well.
10. Reading Quizzes- A short quiz will be taken on D2L prior to the class period in which the reading is due.
10. Quizzes- Two quizzes will be given over material covered.
11. Exams- there will be a midterm and final exam.
12. Lab Hours- Students are required to spend 30 hours over the course of the term working on departmental productions in the scene shop. It is not enough to show up and record your time, an effort must be put forth to further the current scene shop project, if credit is to be given for each hour earned. This will promote your growth as an artist.

Grading

1. Most projects will have a Presentation Day, where feedback on the work will be given by the class and instructor. This will allow improvements to be made prior to the due date. 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 presented 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 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. A project that fulfills the requirements set forth by the instructor will be guaranteed a passing grade . A project that shows growth in craftsmanship or the artistry of design will merit a better grade.

Attendance and Attitude	200 pts
Lab Hours (30 @ 10pts each)	300 pts
TTA Articles (4 @ 25 pts each)	100 pts
Reaction Paper	100 pts
Reading Quizzes (15 @ 10 pts each)	150 pts
Quizzes (2 @ 75 pts each)	150 pts
Midterm Exam	300 pts
Final Exam	400 pts
Wooden Box Project	100 pts
Artist's Statement	100 pts
Home Depot Project	100 pts
TD Project	100 pts
Research Paper	150 pts
Foam Project	100 pts
Scenic Painting Project	150 pts
TOTAL POINTS	2500 pts

A = 90%+of total points	2250-2500
B = 80-89% of total points	2000-2249
C = 70-79% of total points	1750-1999
D = 60-69% of total points	1500-1749
F = 59% and less	under 1499

Extra Credit:

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. Crew assignment cannot receive credit in another class Please note; crew positions are limited. Write a two to three paper describing the experience and receive up to 50 points.