New Course Proposal
Theatre Arts Department

1. Catalogue Description in the style of the University Catalogue
   a. Course Number: THA 3257
   b. Title: Digital Theatrical Design.
   c. Credit: 3-3-3
   d. Term to be Offered: On Demand.
   e. Short Title: Intro to CAD
   f. Course Description: This course, a technical course for the Theatre Arts major, will serve as a prerequisite to further design studies in certain areas of scene, lighting and costume design. A basic knowledge of Macintosh computers is helpful, but not required.
   g. Prerequisites: THA 2210, THA 2211, or permission of the instructor

2. Objectives of the Course
   - To prepare the student for further design studies
   - To introduce the student to the use of Computer Assisted Design (CAD)
   - To relate the use of CAD to scene, lighting and costume design
   - To examine the software programs specific to each design discipline
   - To examine the interfacing of various design programs

3. Outline of the Course
   This course will meet for three 100 minute sessions or two 150 minute sessions per week for fifteen weeks.

   Week 1 Introduction to the course with emphasis on:
   a. becoming familiar with the Macintosh computer
   b. learning basic computer skills needed for later design work

   Week 2 The Vectorworks working environment
   Setting up a drawing
   a. setting scale and page size
   b. setting grid, units, layers
   c. general drawing preferences

   Week 3 Useful Tools for Drafting
   a. rectangle tool
   b. constraint and attribute palette
   c. text tool and Title Block
   d. creating a Template File

   Week 4 Project 1 - Props
   a. extruding objects
   b. zoom
   c. moving and editing

   Week 5 Project 2 - Bench
   a. polyline tool
   b. 2D reshape tool

   Week 6 Project 3 - Set Piece or Portal/Cut Drop
   a. creating a wall, roof, door and window
   b. flip horizontal and rotate
   c. stair tool
   d. working in 3D

   Week 7 Project 4 - Creating the Ground Plan
a. The Design Process
b. incorporating elements from earlier sections

Week 8 Use of Dimensioning Tools and Renderworks

Week 9 Project 5 - Designing a Stage Set
a. ground plan
b. front elevation
c. rear elevation
d. painter's elevation
e. rendering

Week 10 Intro to basic Poser
a. basic tools
b. principles

Week 11 Work on basic pose manipulations
a. exploring various body poses
b. weight distributions

Week 12 Work on basic animation
a. how to animate the figures
b. using the various poses in design

Week 13 Intro to basic Painter
a. basic tools
b. principles

Week 14 Manipulating the various techniques/textures
a. exporting details from the internet/other sources
b. importing details from the internet/other sources.

Week 15 Integrating the two programs
a. import Poser figures/scan Poser figures
b. scan in garments/designs and use Painter to render

Evaluation:
Attendance/Participation - 10%
Midterm Project - 30%
Course Projects - 30%
Final Project - 30%

Grading Scale:
90% = A; 80% = B; 70% = C; 60% = D; <60% = F

4. Implementation
a. Faculty members to whom the course may be assigned: Clarence Blanchette, Karen Eisenhour, Christine Joern, David Wolski
b. Additional costs to students: minimal (storage media)
c. Text: None
d. Term to be first offered: Spring 2003

5. Rationale
a. Purpose and need:

As the field of Theatre Arts becomes more technically oriented in the design disciplines, it is the obligation of the Department to offer courses that will allow the student to be more competitive in the job market. It is the duty of both the Department and the student to become more knowledgeable in the areas that will forward the career of the student. To this end, this course is needed as a precursor to more
advanced design work.

b. Justification of the level of the course and list of prerequisites:

Since this course is designed as a precursor to further design study, it is at a level above the basic, manual graphics course. The prerequisites to this course are consistent with the intent of this course which builds upon a knowledge base. Prerequisites are: THA 2210 - Costuming, THA 2211 - Stagecraft, and THA 2257 - Graphics for the Performing Arts.

c. Similarity to existing courses:

Through implementation of this course, any similarities in advanced design courses may be removed. Presently, the use of computers is incorporated in upper level scenic, costume and lighting design courses. It is becoming increasingly difficult to allot the extensive amount of time it takes to learn the basic computer skills needed and then cover the primary import of that class. This intermediate class would relieve the burden from the advanced design class.

d. Requirement or elective:

This course will be an elective of Theatre Arts Majors/Minors.

6. Community College Transfer

A community college course will not be judged as equivalent to this course.

7. Date approved by Department Curriculum Committee: April 9, 2001

8. Date approved by College Curriculum Committee: April 30, 2001

9. Date approved by CAA: July 19, 2001