

Theatre and Drama 170
Fundamentals of Stagecraft

9:55 MWF; 4020 Vilas & Scene Studio

Spring, 2006

Instructor: Dennis Dorn
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Office: 2186 Vilas (University Square side of Hemsley Theatre)
Office hours: 10:45-11:30 M, W and by appt.

Course Objectives:

- Learn theatrical organization and terminology
- Learn the process and techniques of scenery creation
- Learn to work creatively to determine solutions to production requirements
- Learn about theatre safety
- Learn basic theatrical drafting

Required Materials:

Texts: *Illustrated Theatre Production Guide*, John Holloway, available: Univ. Bookstore (soon).
Backstage Handbook, Paul Carter
Handout Packet, available at Bob's Copy Shop, University. Square (texts denoted as ITPG and HP in syllabus)
Note: Bring Handout Packet documents to class on the days they appear on the syllabus.

Drafting equipment: Available at University Bookstore Art Dept. or places like Office Depot. If you have existing equipment, use it.

- 1, T-square: 18" or 24" (least expensive one is fine)
- 2, Triangles: 45 degree 10"-leg; 30-60 degree 12" leg
- 2, Mechanical lead pencils: 1 @ 0.05mm; 1 @ 0.07mm, HB lead (usually comes with)
- 1, Eraser (white) plastic 1, Erasing shield
- 1, Drafting tape (small roll) 1, Architect's scale rule (not metric, designer, or engineer)

Lab equipment: (Available at hardware stores or building centers; goggles available at Univ. Bookstore)

- 1, 16-foot (or longer) steel tape measure (not metric!)
- 1 pr., Safety glasses or goggles (with ANSI Z-87 rating). If you wear glasses, buy safety glasses.
- 3-5, # 2 pencil(s) (you will need several, since they are easily misplaced)

Bring all lab equipment to your orientation and all lab sessions.

Class requirements:

1. You are responsible for all assigned readings (see syllabus)
2. Attendance is MANDATORY. You have a maximum of three excused absences, more will affect final grade by one full letter grade
3. Worksheets and projects; two exams, final exam. Details are on page 5.
4. Lab requirement:
 - a. **Attend a 2 hr. Studio Orientation session** BEFORE your first lab. Time: 2:00 pm.
Available dates are: W, 1/18__ R, 1/19__ F, 1/20__ M, 1/23__ R, 2/9
 - b. **Attend one construction lab module**, determined at your registration. (see p. 5).
The Scene Studio is open daily, 2-6 pm, M-F. 8 labs are required.
 - c. **Participate in one strike of a University Theatre production.**
Sign-up sheet is on Chuck's door: spaces are limited

Pride & Prejudice	Monday, March 20,	7:00 PM	Mitchell Theatre
According to Coyote	NA		
Sight Unseen	Monday, May 1	7:00 PM	Mitchell Theatre
 - d. **Attend one Scene Studio clean-up session.** Choose either Tues. May 2 or Wed. May 3, both 2-5 PM
An 'End-of-the-Year' celebration will follow the May 3 session. Free food & drink; please join us.
 - e. **Four-credit students have an additional requirement** Specific information is on page 5.

Syllabus:

Wk	Day	Date	Topic	Readings	Place
1	W	1/18	Class introduction, tour of the Hemsley and Mitchell theatres & Scene Studio Labs 301-305 should attend lab orientation this week		4020
	F	1/20	Theatrical Venues and Terms; Production Organization	TPG 1-12; P: P4-5	
2	M	1/23	Production Personnel; the Design Process	TPG: INTRO; P6; 11-14	Union
	W	1/25	Union Theatre tour <i>Meet at Union Theatre Box Office (Park St. entrance)</i>	TPG: CHAP. 3; P2	
	F	1/27	The UT rehearsal process	P9-10	
3	M	1/30	Drafting conventions part I & the Scale Rule -- Bring scale rule Bring: Worksheet 1 materials (due W, 2/1) Worksheet 2 materials (due F, 2/3)	P16-17	Studio
	W	2/1	Orthographic Projection Bring: drafting tools & Worksheet 3 materials (due F, 2/3); <i>Worksheet 1 due</i>	P18-19	
	F	2/3	Building materials <i>Worksheet 2 due</i>	TPG: Chaps. 9 P20-23	
4	M	2/6	Standard and TV flat construction <i>Worksheet 6 (P: 77) due</i> <i>Flat Sketch and Cut List due (P: 20) [complete in class]</i>	TPG: Chap. 12; P26-32	Studio
	W	2/8	Saws & Joinery	TPG: Chap. 11; P24-25 TPG 237-242	
	F	2/10	Covering & Flat building demo (bring safety glasses) <i>Worksheet 6 (P: 78) due</i>		
5	M	2/13	Joining and stiffening flats into walls Adhesives and fasteners - introduction	TPG: Chaps: 7 & 8 P33-37	Studio
	W	2/15	Adhesives and fasteners - applications & demonstrations		
	F	2/16	Drafting flats and walls <i>Bring drafting equipment, Worksheets 4 & 5 (due Monday, 2/27)</i>	P26-32	

6	M	2/20	Rope & Tying knots http://www.mistral.co.uk/42brghtn/knots/42ktmenu.html	TPG: Chap. 4; P38-40	Studio
	W	2/22	Soft scenery: scrim and drop construction	TPG: Chap. 5; P41-42	
	F	2/24	Soft scenery: rigging and curtains <i>Worksheet 5 due</i> <i>Brief meeting with 4-credit students last 15 min.</i>	P43-45	
7	M	2/27	Weight-bearing scenery, i.e. platforms <i>Worksheet 4 due</i>	TPG: Chap. 14; P46-49	
	W	3/1	Weight-bearing scenery; Review for Exam 1		
	F 1	3/3	Exam 1		
8	M	3/6	Introduction to drafting a groundplan <i>4 cr. Students must have an approved card by this date; bring to class</i>	P50-51	
	W	3/8	Drafting ground plans and sections <i>Bring drafting equipment and Worksheet 7 (due F, 3/24)</i>		
	F	3/10	Card flat drafting (4 credit students only) [NOTE ROOM CHANGE] <i>Bring drafting equipment, card and instructions</i>		4032

SPRING BREAK - 3/11-19
No Class this week`

9	M	3/20	Platform systems <i>Card flat meeting, last 10 min. (4 cr students only)</i>	P46-49	
	W	3/22	Stage deck layout <i>Bring Worksheet 6 (P: 75-76) and drafting tools (due M, 4/3)</i>		
	F	3/24	Wagons & Turntables <i>Card flat rough drafting approval deadline</i>	P63-64	

10 M 3/27 Stage Decks & Automation (remote control of wagon units)

USITT CONFERENCE (Louisville) - 3/28-4/1
Guest Lecturers Wednesday & Friday

W 3/30 Props crafts
F 4/1 Open

11 M 4/3 Introduction to scene painting P52-57
Worksheet 6 due

W 4/5 Scene painting technique & demonstration Studio
F 4/7 Metals in scenery construction TPG: Chap. 15; P58-59 Studio

12 M 4/10 Metals in scenery construction, cont'd; Discuss Exam 2.
Card flat construction begins (see p. 6) Studio

W 4/12 Exam 2
Card flat final drawing deadline
F 4/14 Rigging principles and systems TPG: Chap. 3; P60-62

13 M 4/17 Rigging scenery to fly Studio

W 4/19 Rolling scenery tbd
F 4/21 Stairs and railings, drafting stairs TPG: Chap. 13; P65-66 Studio

14 M 4/24 Profile flats and molding TPG: Chap. 18; P67-69

W 4/26 Doors & windows & associated hardware TPG: Chap. 17; P69-71 Studio
F 4/28 Production solution presentations: day 1
Paper due

15 M 5/1 Texture and irregular 3D shapes P72-73 Studio
Card Flats due, 5:00 PM

W 5/3 Production solution presentations: day 2
F 5/5 Evaluations, critique course; discuss Final Exam

Grading Breakdown:

3-CREDIT STUDENTS

Exam I 12%
Exam II 12%
Final Exam 13%
Worksheets 30%
Class participation 10%
Lab 25%

4-CREDIT STUDENTS

Exam I 9%
Exam II 9%
Final Exam 10%
Worksheets 25%
Class participation 7%
Lab 20%
Project 20%

Worksheets

- #1 Scale Rule & Symbols
- #2 Reading a Ground Plan
- #3 Orthographic Projection
- #4 Flat Sketch & Cut List
- #5 Drafting Flats
- #6 Platforms
- #7 Drafting Ground Plan, etc
- #8 You're the TD
- #9 Paper Critique of Set for UT Production

Worksheet and project information:

- Worksheets and projects are found in your on-line Packet.
- They are intended to reinforce topics discussed in class.
- Due by 5:00 PM on the days indicated on the syllabus. 5 % per school day deduction when handed in late.

4-Credit (card flat) projects:

- Meetings and information are in *italics* in Syllabus
- Construction/painting sessions begin Mon. April 10, 2-5:00 PM, Mon., Tue., Thur. & Fri. afternoons through 5/1.
- Card Flat handouts provide more complete information.

And finally,

- For some of you this course will be a lot of new information, and you will feel the need for extra help. I am happy to help you, but can only do so if you ask. Don't be shy about asking!!
- Don't panic about the drafting! Individual sessions can be scheduled as needed.

Supplemental Readings

Stage Geography	2		
Theatre Spaces	3		
Production Organization Charts	4-5		
Job Descriptions	6		
University Theatre Rehearsal Rules	7-8		
Rehearsal Definitions	9-10		
Blueprint of a Production	11-14		
Design Timeline	15		
Line Symbols & Sample	16		
USITT Ground Plan & Other Symbols	17		
Orthographic Projection	18-19		
Building Materials	20-23		
		Joinery	24-25
		Flat Drafting	26-32
		Adhesives	33-34
		Fasteners	35-37
		Rope and Knots	38-40
		Drops & Curtains	41-42
		Drapery Tracks & Rigging	43-45
		Stage Decks	46-49
		Drafting Ground Plans, etc.	50-51
		Scene Painting	52-57
		Metals	58-59
		Rigging	60-62
		Wagons and Turntables	63-64
		Stairs	65-66
		Profile Flats	67
		Molding	68-69
		Doors & Windows	69-71
		Texturing Scenery	72-73
			Worksheets
			#1 Scale Rule & Symbols
			#2 Reading a Ground Plan
			#3 Orthographic Projection
			#4 Flat Sketch & Cut List
			#5 Drafting Flats
			#6 Platforms
			#7 Drafting Ground Plan, etc
			#8 You're the TD
			#9 Paper Critique of Set for UT Production
			Appendix
			UT Studio Standards
			A1-A20