Course Description
Basic techniques in scene construction; technical drafting for the stage; survey of technical areas of concentration. Theatre 1101 must be taken in conjunction with this course.

Course Objectives
1. Gaining factual knowledge of Technical Theatre
2. Learning fundamental principles of Technical Theatre
3. Developing specific skills needed by professionals in Technical Theatre
4. Acquiring skills in working with others as a member of a team
5. Learning how to find and use resources for answering questions or solving problems

Learning Outcomes
1. The student will define stagecraft terminology
2. The student will distinguish the physical stage and its equipment
3. The student will understand the functions of stage scenery
4. The student will recognize the different types of stage construction and scene painting
5. The student will have hands-on experience in scenic construction and scene painting
6. The student will understand mechanical drafting fundamentals and have experience in basic hand and computer drafting for theatre

Course Requirements
- Participation
- Tool Checklist
- Technical Brief Project (group)
- Drafting Assignments
- Performance Critiques
- Flat Project
- Quizzes covering class lectures and discussions
- Midterm & Final Exams

Course Attire
Since the majority of this class will be held in the Scene Shop, proper attire must be worn. Closed-toed shoes, and either shorts or long-pants must be worn at all times. Sandals, flip-flops, skirts, or dresses are not allowed. Also, keep in mind that the nature of the construction and painting scenery is messy, so you should plan on wearing clothes that are not valuable, either in sentiment or in worth.
Texts

- Illustrated Theatre Production Guide – Holloway

A note about the text...it does not really matter to me which edition you choose to purchase for this class, provided that if you use an edition different from mine, you check with me to make sure that the reading assignments match up, and that the information contained within is all there. It is also permissible to share texts, though it will be difficult at times throughout the semester.

Grading Policy

Grade Distribution (with competency for Learning Outcomes given):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tool Checklist (1,2,3,4,5)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Brief Project (group) (1,3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance Critiques (1,2,3,4)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafting Assignments (1, 3, 6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Team Construction Projects (1,3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flat Project (1,3,4,5)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (1,2,3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exams (1,2,3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (1,2,3,4,5,6)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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The grade of “C” is given for work that completes all of the assignment requirements and is submitted on time. Grades “A” or “B” are given for work that meets the “C” requirements and clearly demonstrates thought and development in appropriate skills and aesthetic understanding.

I will **NOT** accept any late assignments. Each assignment has been created so that it emphasizes the current topic in class and prepares the foundations for the next project. Skipping an assignment will more than likely be a hindrance and detrimental to your work on the proceeding assignments.

Grade Appeal Process

As stated in the ASU Operating Policy and Procedure (OP10.03) a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see OP10.03 at www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc

Contact Information

Professor Mike Burnett
E-mail: michael.burnett@angelo.edu
Office Phone: 325-486-6190
Office Location: Carr Fine Arts/Education, Room #165
Office Hours:
Monday/Wednesday 1p-3p
Tuesday/Thursday 11a-12p, 1p-2p
Friday by appointment
All Power Point presentations presented in class as well as other information for this class will eventually end upon Blackboard.
Attendance and Participation Policy
Quality participation in class is required. Students contribute to the learning environment and demonstrate their understanding of the material by participation. Therefore, class attendance is required and the attendance policy is as follows:

- Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period. 0-5 minutes late will count as tardy. Students who are more than 5 minutes late for class will be considered absent for that class. Tardiness is seriously frowned upon. 2 Tardies count as 1 absence.
- My attendance policy is strict. Missing 4 classes will lower your final grade by 10%. Every 2 classes missed after that will result in another 10% reduction. Absences count regardless of the reason...so use them wisely. Sickness absences count...keep that in mind.
- Students who miss class because of illnesses are still expected to complete the assignments, on the day they are due. Late work due to illnesses will not be accepted.
- Students who are late for class on presentation days will only be given the allotted class time to complete their presentation.
- Students representing ASU (traveling groups, class field trips, etc.) will be granted an excused absence, but prior notification must be given to me in writing at least one week in advance. The opportunity to make-up work is the student’s responsibility to arrange.
- To be clear, no arrangements will be made AFTER the absence; all arrangements must be made in advance and you and I must agree upon a timetable.
- Remember, an absence is not an excuse for a late assignment. If you have prior knowledge of your absence your assignment is to be turned in prior to your absence.
- Missing class on a scheduled presentation day can jeopardize your grade for the semester. Missing class because you haven’t finished an assignment is a questionable choice and results in both a lower grade on the assignment and the loss of valuable class time.

Rationale:
I value attendance and participation. A class is only as useful as the time you put into it, and, more than lecturing, I think we learn from active discussion and debate.

Base Score:
The 10% points for participation includes coming to class and participating, if not in the large class discussion, in the smaller groups at least. If you are reserved, I understand, and I won’t ask you to do anything that I might assign in class that an actor might enjoy. But, oral communication is a key part of the theatre and it is essential that you learn to communicate as a theatre artist. Using class time to discuss non-class topics, non-engagement, and absence will eat away at your grade.

The Catch:
Worse than absence and not participating is actively detracting from the learning environment. I really, really, really hate having to stop the class because someone is chatting with their friends, writing notes to each other, making faces, texting, or reading the newspaper. It is disrespectful to those of your classmates who have paid good money and want to learn something. This has a far worse effect on your grade. In other words, if I have to say something to you, or if I just have a bad feeling of any kind about you that day, I will subtract points from your participation grade. If you are continually disruptive, I will ask you to leave the classroom, which will result in an absence for that day being recorded.

The Solution:
If you feel like sleeping, chatting, giggling, or being anywhere else, just don’t show up. Believe me, it will be better for your grade than being asked to leave class.
Plagiarism

Plagiarism: What it means to do it, and the consequences of being caught.
I was a student myself, and I understand the pressures students face in this department. It's getting close to the end of the semester and you just opened a show. You have two research papers due, an acting scene, and some final exams. You haven't started on your final project because you've been in rehearsal every night until midnight. Your scene partner has been flaking out on you. You've fallen behind in all of your classes - and you don't particularly like anything we've studied in this class. Really - you'd rather deal with any other assignments than think about tech theatre. Understandable. You can cut down on all of this, you think, if you just find some quick material on the internet on a Technical Brief and copy it in, work in some of the material from your friend's notes (you didn't go to class the day we discussed it), and "voila!" A paper! Worse yet, you find just the paper you're looking for from the internet. Only $10 a page... this is too perfect!

After the final exam you get an email from me telling you that your paper seems to match another one found online. It will be investigated. You find yourself in a disciplinary hearing - your scholarship is revoked, you flunk Theatre History or, worse, you are expelled from the University.

You want to finish your degree elsewhere. You audition for another grad program. They'd take you in a heartbeat, they say, but it appears that you were expelled from a school for academic misconduct; they can't possibly admit you to the program. Other graduate programs turn you down. Employers for stupid bank jobs even balk at your record. You waste your life working in an insurance office job that your loser brother got you in Kalamazoo.

Materials that are available for you to plagiarize are available to me to review. I have read most of the printed sources you are likely to use, and I also can purchase ready-made essays from the same vendors...if they can sell to you, what is to stop them from making money from me? Plagiarism is a lousy shortcut, not just because it leads to the tragic scenario I outlined above, but also because:

1. Projects and Papers put together from lifted sources are usually of poor quality. If you think the people who produce these papers for hire are better writers than you, think again. They are usually 'C' quality papers at best.

2. You lose my respect, and the respect of others on faculty. It will affect the way we evaluate you in the future.

3. You cheat yourself of an opportunity to learn. I don't assign projects for my own enjoyment! I assign papers because I want to give you an opportunity to explore in greater depth a topic you find interesting. I want to help you learn to be a better writer - to organize your thoughts, to think on a deeper level, and to analyze materials more effectively. What a great opportunity! You paid a lot of money for such an opportunity - and you cheat yourself of that. Think of how much money you are wasting by just 'getting by.'

Remember: Any paper you write yourself, with your own research, will usually be good enough for a 'B' grade or better. I appreciate the effort a student puts into a research project. Find a topic you like. ASK ME if you have any problems. I am happy to help you - even if you have to remind me a gazillion times. I take plagiarism very seriously, and I WILL catch you. I'm terribly zealous about it. So, don't do it.

The above text was taken from http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jewestla/plagiarism.html and adapted in places to fit this course.
Academic Advising
The College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Visual & Performing Arts require that students meet with a Faculty Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Faculty Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, faculty advisor, and the department chair. Theatre majors who have questions about advising or declaring a major in the department, can call 942-2031. Undeclared majors are supported by ASU’s Center for Academic Excellence located in Library A312, and can be reached at 942-2710.

Academic Honor Code
Violations of academic integrity are very serious matters and are clearly documented in the ASU Student Handbook. The work a student submits in a class is expected to be the student’s own work and must be work completed for that particular class and assignment. Plagiarism means intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one’s own. This may include your own previous work. Plagiarism includes quoting or paraphrasing from other sources without acknowledging/citing the source of your information or presenting quoted material as your own words. You must be very clear about attribution of sources and you must know how to cite sources in a paper. Please see full Honor Code Policy at http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf

Non-Discrimination
Prejudice of any kind will not be accepted in the classroom. This includes age, race, political stance, religious preference, and ethnicity. Students are allowed to disagree and voice opinions if they do so in a non-offensive manner.

Incomplete Grades
The grade I is given when the student is unable to complete the course because of illness or personal misfortune. An I that is not removed before the end of the next long semester automatically becomes an F. A graduate student will be allowed one year to remove a grade of I before it automatically becomes an F. To graduate from ASU, a student must complete all I’s.

Students with Disabilities
Angelo State University complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. If you suspect that you may have a disability (physical impairment, learning disability, psychiatric disability, etc.), please contact the Dean of Student Life and Student Services at 942-2191. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

In General
I do not accept late assignments. However, if you are having trouble keeping up - please come and see me. I would much rather you come and talk to me than let your work slide. I am in during my office hours, during the shop, and other times, and I can be easily reached by email. You will find I am usually pretty agreeable if you take the initiative and communicate with me.
## Formatting/Paper Requirements

- All written assignments are to be TYPED using either Times New Roman, Arial, Century, or Cambria, in Size 12 of course.
- Double-spaced.
- All written assignments should be well thought-out and in complete sentences. (FYI: Yes. No. are not complete sentences!)
- Don’t forget: Spell check is your friend!
- Proof reading helps a lot, too!
- Papers must be saved in Microsoft Word format (either .doc or .docx). If it is not in this format, I will not grade it and you will get a failing grade for the assignment.
- All Assignments will need to be submitted via Blackboard by the assignment deadline. I will not accept printed papers.
- Late assignments will not be accepted.

## Readings for Class

There will be dates this semester where we will discuss, in depth, *The Illustrated Theatre Production Guide* and other assigned readings. Students are expected to read the selection. Quizzes will be given based on the content of the chapter readings.

## Performance Attendance/Critique

For this particular class, you will be required to attend the 2 live theatrical productions presented by the Arts @ ASU. For each production, you will complete a critique.

This semester, the required productions are *Not About Nightingales* and *My Fair Lady*. Please, get your tickets in advance. Waiting until the last performance will put you at a disadvantage. Production response papers should be 2-3 pages in length and will be due within a week after the play closes. These papers are designed to get you to put your impressions (likes, dislikes, etc.) of the technical elements of the production into a coherent expression of words. I don’t grade you on WHAT YOUR OPINION IS, I grade these on how well you support your opinion. Copying another person’s production critique (or collaborating with another student on this paper) WILL result in at least a zero (0) for the assignment for both students—and could result in an “F” for the course and disciplinary action from the Dean.

For extra credit, you may to attend up to 3 live theatrical productions produced by either another college/university, a local established community theatre, or a professional theatre company, but it may not be your church’s Christmas pageant, your little sister’s high school production, or an “improv”/comedy show. If you are not sure that a performance you are planning to attend fits the criteria. Be sure to ask me first, not later.

You may attend these extra credit theatrical productions at any time throughout the semester. Once you have attended the performance, you will complete a critique for the production. The critique, a scan of the coverpage and cast/production staff from your program, and a scan of your ticket stub are due for the full extra credit amount (each extra credit journal may count up to ½ of a critique grade).

Extra credit critiques are due no later than **Tuesday, November 28.**
Team Construction Projects (group)
Construction projects should be completed using class time. If your team cannot complete the project in that time, you must arrange for time to use the shop outside of class and practicum.

Initial materials for these projects will be provided by the department. However, should mistakes be made in construction, additional material costs will be split among the team.

Software
Each student is required to download the free educational version of Vectorworks2017 from Nemetschek USA. To request the download, go to https://student.myvectorworks.net by the end of the 1st week of class.

Flat/CD Project
Each student will construct their own 2’x2’ flat from materials provided by the scene shop. They will then cartoon and paint a CD cover of their choosing on the flat (must be approved by the professor prior to cartooning).

Quizzes & Exams
Quizzes and Tests are given at the beginning of the class period. If you are tardy on a day that a quiz or test is given, you will not be given extra time to complete the examination. There is a 2 part midterm exam (hands on and written) and a written final exam.

Technical Brief Project (group)
Project overview:
This project is designed to have you begin thinking “outside of the box.” In theatre, designs sometimes call for new or unusual ways of making things work. A lot of the time, a “standard” way of doing things won’t work for a certain production or design challenge (remember...there are no problems!!) The Yale School of Drama created the Yale Technical Brief as a way for theatre technicians to let other technicians know about solutions for these design challenges. Examples of technical briefs can be found at: technicalbrief.org. Your team will select a design challenge from provided list. Once you have identified a challenge, check with Professor Burnett to be sure it is of sufficient scope for the assignment. The deadline for this approval is Tuesday, November 15. You will then design a solution for the challenge, documenting each step through text, drawings and research (use the technical briefs found on the Yale webpage as model). A final presentation will be given during class on December 15 @ 8AM (during the final exam slot).

GRADE BREAKDOWN
35% – paper – You will write a 2—3 page paper detailing your design—following the Tech Brief format on the web.
35% – drawings/research – Create enough technical drawings to detail the design. Grading will be on accuracy and clarity of the drawings. Each project must have at least as many drawings as there are members of the team, with each member contributing at least one.
25% – individual assessment from the professor – This portion of the grade will reflect the team effort & individual efforts, as well as the feasibility of the design.
5% – presentation (graded in part by the class) – I strongly suggest using Power-point or other visual aids in communicating the design. Professionalism is a large part of this grade. Dress, décor of materials, and presentation must be done so they look professional.

** IMPORTANT NOTE – DO NOT IGNORE **
Since a large part of technical theatre deals with the ability to communicate effectively, you are expected to follow standard rules of grammar/spelling in your papers and presentations. Errors in grammar/spelling and poor writing will be counted against the final grade.

Selected projects may be chosen to apply for an ASU Undergraduate Research grant for completion. If selected, the project team will complete the actual creation of the tech brief with funding from ASU.

Group Projects
Working on theatre is like a giant group project. Several assignments for this class are group assignments and should be completed as such. However, if the group dynamic is such that one member is not pulling his/her own weight, the “Survivor” method will be brought into play. If there is a problem, the entire team should schedule a time to meet with the professor. If, after this meeting, there are still problems, the team can cast a vote to have one member removed from the “team.” If you are removed from the team, you will not be reassigned to another team. You will complete the project on your own, with a grade reduction. In past semesters, there have been groups to vote members out, so please take this seriously.
### Tool Checklist
35 tools total must be checked off. Tools indicated with an * are required. Either Prof. Burnett or Greg Gonzales may sign off a tool. The checklists will be kept with the practicum hour log in the scene shop.

You must know the following about each tool in order to be checked off:
- What is the tool designed to do
- What safety precautions should you be aware of
- What is the proper and safe use of the tool
- What are the major parts of the tool
- How do you turn it on and off

#### Hand Tools
- 1. Claw Hammer*
- 2. Mallet
- 3. Wonder Bar*
- 4. Pry/Crow Bar
- 5. Crescent, C, or Adjustable Wrench*
- 6. Ratchet wrench with sockets
- 7. Nut Driver
- 8. Allen Keys
- 9. Open End & Box / Closed End Wrench
- 10. Screw Drivers – Phillips and Slotted*
- 11. Vise-Grip Locking Plier*
- 12. Needle Nose Plier
- 13. Slip Joint Plier
- 14. Linesmen Plier / Linesmen Dikes
- 15. Side Cutters – Diagonal Cutting Plier – Dikes*
- 16. Channel Locks*
- 17. Pipe Wrench
- 18. Wire Tool / Wire Stripper
- 19. End Nipper *
- 20. Hand Saw*
- 21. Hack Saw
- 22. Mat / Utility Knife*
- 23. Hand Staple Gun*
- 24. Hot Glue Gun

#### Pneumatic Tools
- 25. Narrow Crown Stapler / Sheathing Stapler*
- 26. Wide Crown Stapler / Upholstery Stapler*
- 27. Pneumatic Drill
- 28. Nail Gun*

#### Electric Tools
- 29. Corded Drill / Screw Gun*
- 30. Cordless Drill*
- 31. Orbital Sander*
- 32. Palm Sander
- 33. Grinder*
- 34. Belt Sander
- 35. SawzAll / Reciprocating Saw
- 36. Router*
- 37. Saber Saw*
- 38. Circular / Skil Saw*
- 39. Table Saw*
- 40. Radial Arm Saw*
- 41. Band Saw
- 42. Scroll Saw
- 43. Power Miter Box Saw*
- 44. Steel Chop Saw*
- 45. Bench Grinder
- 46. Stationary Belt / Disk Sander
- 47. Drill Press
- 48. MIG Welder

### Drafting Assignments
Drafting Assignments must be completed using Vectorworks 2017.

1 - Plan, Front, Side Elevations & Dimensions
2 - Orthographic Projections
3 - Flat/Platforms Front & Rear Elevations
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text Reading</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T</td>
<td>29-Aug</td>
<td>Intro to Class, Tour Mod/Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>31-Aug</td>
<td>Tour Auditorium, Stage Rigging</td>
<td>Ch 1, 2, 3</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>5-Sep</td>
<td>Production Organization &amp; Management</td>
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<td>TH</td>
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<td>Tools &amp; Materials</td>
<td>Ch 16 &amp; 17</td>
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<td>12-Sep</td>
<td>Tools &amp; Materials</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>14-Sep</td>
<td>Tools &amp; Materials</td>
<td>Ch 15</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>19-Sep</td>
<td>Team Construction Project 1</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>21-Sep</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>26-Sep</td>
<td>Scenic Production Techniques - Flats</td>
<td>Ch 18</td>
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<td>28-Sep</td>
<td>Scenic Production Techniques - Platforms</td>
<td>Ch 20</td>
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<td>3-Oct</td>
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<td>5-Oct</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>10-Oct</td>
<td>Reading Plans</td>
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<td>TH</td>
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<td>Color, Scene Painting</td>
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<td>24-Oct</td>
<td>Flat Project Work in Class</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>26-Oct</td>
<td>Drafting (meet in Carr 113)</td>
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<td>Nightingales critique</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>2-Nov</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>7-Nov</td>
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<td>9-Nov</td>
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<td>23-Nov</td>
<td>THANKSGIVING</td>
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<td>T</td>
<td>28-Nov</td>
<td>Tech Brief Group Work (meet in Carr 113)</td>
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<td>30-Nov</td>
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<td>5-Dec</td>
<td>Tech Brief Group Work (meet in Carr 113)</td>
<td>My Fair Lady critique</td>
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<td>TH</td>
<td>7-Dec</td>
<td>Tech Brief Group Work (meet in Carr 113)</td>
<td>Tool Checklist</td>
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<tr>
<td>TH</td>
<td>15-Dec</td>
<td>8AM FINAL EXAM &amp; Tech Brief Presentations</td>
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