Course Description
Advanced applications and analysis of technical theatre techniques with practical laboratory work. Course provides an understanding of operation and management of scene shop as well as studying different and advanced techniques of theatrical productions. Materials and adaptation of existing materials will be studied.

Course Objectives
1. Gaining factual knowledge of advanced Technical Theatre topics.
2. Learning fundamental principles of Technical Direction.
3. Developing specific skills and safety procedures 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 role and functions of the technical director in live theatre
4. The student will recognize the different types of advanced stagecraft techniques and materials
5. The student will have hands-on experience in advanced stagecraft techniques for the theatre

Course Requirements
- Participation
- Discussion Board
- Projects

Course Attire
Since a portion 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 technical theatre is messy, so you should plan on wearing clothes that are not valuable, either in sentiment or in worth.
Texts

♦ *The Technical Director’s Toolkit – Stribling & Girtain*

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:**
- Participation/Discussion: 10%
- Build Calendar: 5%
- Construction Drawings: 5%
- Build Budget: 5%
- Scene Shop Design: 15%
- Light Plot Adaptation: 5%
- Dante Level 1: 5%
- Sound System Design: 10%
- Projection Systems Design: 10%
- Specialized Props: 10%
- Advanced Materials Project: 20%

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<td>D</td>
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Total: 100%

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, except due to excused illnesses. 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](http://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 #159
Office Hours:
- Monday – Thursday 130p-330p
- Friday by appointment

All Power Point presentations and handouts 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 a 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 3 classes will lower your final grade by 10%. Every class missed after that will result in another 10% reduction.
- Missing more than 7 classes will result in a Failing grade for the semester.
- Students who leave class early without prior consent will be marked absent.
- Students who are late for class on presentation days will only be given the allotted class time to complete their presentation.
- An excused absence will be granted only for documented health and family purposes. (This means you must provide “official documentation” such as an official doctor’s/ clinic note, a newspaper clipping, or official university letter etc. to be excused within 24 hours of missing the class.)
- 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.
- Remember, an absence is not an excuse for a late assignment. If you have prior knowledge of your absence (such as a class trip), please turn in your assignment prior to your absence. Note: Doctor’s appointments are to be scheduled at a time as to not conflict with this class. Having a doctor’s appointment is not an excuse for missing class.
- 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.

Regardless of attendance, you are responsible for class notes, handouts and deadlines. There are no make-ups. If you are absent on test days or when assignments are due, you will receive a zero for that grade. Please see the professor if there are some special circumstances.

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 Communication, Mass Media and Theatre 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. Communication, Mass Media, or 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.

Software

Each student is required to download the free educational version of Vectorworks2018 from Nemetschek USA. To request the download, go to https://student.myvectorworks.net by the end of the 1st week of class.

Readings for Class

It is expected that you will read the assigned portions of the texts and other handouts prior to arriving in class. Lectures and in-class assignments will be based upon the assumption that these readings have been completed and lecture material will be related to the readings. However, lectures will not be rehashes of the readings. In order to facilitate in class discussions & lectures, students are required to post reading thoughts to a Discussion post in Blackboard. Each reading post should answer the following:
- What is your favorite passage in the assigned reading? Why is it important to you?
- What passage in the assigned reading is giving you difficulty or do you disagree with? Why?
- Is there a passage you can assimilate from this reading into your life in theatre? Describe it. (Note...there should be something from each reading that you can use...answering “none” is not permitted)

Build Calendar

For the given theatre production designs, you will create an in-depth Build Calendar. You must notate number of person-hours to complete:
- Scenic Construction/Painting
- Load In
- Hang/Focus/Programming of Lights
- Instalation of Sound System
- Completion of Props
- Technical Rehearsals

Construction Drawings

For the given theatre production scenic design, you will create any and all Construction Drawings in Vectorworks.

Production Budget

For the given theatre production design, you will create a detailed Production Budget for the following design areas:
- Scenic Design
- Lighting Design
- Properties Design
- Sound Design

Scene Shop Design Project (group)

The class will be broken into groups to complete this project. Each group will be given the dimensions and layout of a theatre Scene Shop and will create a plan (2D and 3D)/item list/budget breakdown for a completely outfitted and operational shop. This is a major project, comparable to a Mid-term exam and should be treated accordingly.
### Light Plot Adaptation - Each student will be given a touring production light plot that you will adapt for the SAPAC Murphey Performance Hall using Vectorworks. Complete the following items (see handout for specifics)*:
- Light Plot
- Hang Cards
- Paperwork (instrument schedule, dimmer schedule, DMX hook up, channel schedule)
- Inventory
- Color Order/Cut List
- Hang/Circuit/Focus Calendar

* Project handout will have specific items to turn in and criteria for each. The list above may be augmented on the handout.

### Dante Level 1 - Using the [https://www.audinate.com/cert-guide](https://www.audinate.com/cert-guide) website, you will complete the Level 1 online course and test.

### Sound System Design - Each student will complete a Sound System design for a specific theatre/production. Complete the following items (see handout for specifics)*:
- Sound Equipment List (including cable run quantity and lengths)
- Sound Equipment Plot and C-Line (with speaker coverages)
- Complete Budget/Cost Analysis
- Installation Calendar/Schedule

* Project handout will have specific items to turn in and criteria for each. The list above may be augmented on the handout.

### Projection System Design - Each student will complete a Projection System design for a specific theatre/production. Complete the following items (see handout for specifics)*:
- Projection Equipment List (including cable run quantity and lengths)
- Projection Equipment Plot and C-Line (with speaker coverages)
- Complete Budget/Cost Analysis
- Installation Calendar/Schedule

* Project handout will have specific items to turn in and criteria for each. The list above may be augmented on the handout.

### Specialized Prop - Each student will research, create construction plans, and construct a specialized prop for a specific play.
- 2D & 3D draftings
- Construction drawings
- Complete Budget/Cost Analysis
- Build Calendar

* Project handout will have specific items to turn in and criteria for each. The list above may be augmented on the handout.

### Advanced Materials Construction Project/Trebuchet (group) - Each group design and create a functional model Trebuchet, and plans/cost estimate for a full-scale Trebuchet. After the models are completed, the groups will be combined into 2 final groups that will build full-scale working Trebuchets.
- 2D & 3D draftings
- Construction drawings
- Stress/Breaking analysis
- Complete Budget/Cost Analysis
- Build Calendar

* Project handout will have specific items to turn in and criteria for each. The list above may be augmented on the handout.

### 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.
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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Thinking Like a Technical Director</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, September 6, 2018</td>
<td>Design, Estimation, &amp; Pre-Production Planning, Chs 1, 2</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 11, 2018</td>
<td>Tour Riders</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 18, 2018</td>
<td>Paints, Finishes, Soft Goods</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 25, 2018</td>
<td>Scene Shop Design/Safety</td>
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<td>Thursday, September 27, 2018</td>
<td>Group Work in Class, Scene Shop Project</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 4, 2018</td>
<td>Adapting Light Plans</td>
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<td>Thursday, October 9, 2018</td>
<td>Sound Systems/Qlab</td>
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### Class Calendar

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**FINALs - Adv. Stagecraft @ 1030a**

**Trebuchet Final**

**Trebuchet Model/Materials List/Conjecture**

**Specialized Prop**

**Projection System Design**

**Sound System Design**

**Lighting/Adaptation**

**Scene Shop Design Project**

**Unit 5 Construction, Production Budget**

**Unit 6 Construction, Build Calendar**

**Unit 7 Construction, Construction Drawings**