Angelo State University
Department of Visual and Performing Arts

TH1120: Theatre Practicum

Class Syllabus

Course Description
Supervised laboratory assignments in areas of specialization. May be repeated for a maximum of four semester credit hours but may not be used to meet theatre major or minor requirements.

Course Objectives
1. Gaining 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

Learning Outcomes
1. The student will define stagecraft terminology
2. The student will recognize the different types of stage construction and scene painting
3. The student will have hands-on experience in theatre construction and scene painting

Course Requirements
- Participation
- Production Assignment Paper

Course Attire
Proper attire, based on where you are assigned is required for this class.

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.

If you are assigned to the Box Office, you must wear “Business Casual” attire.
Texts
None

Grading Policy
Grade Distribution (with competency for Learning Outcomes given):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shop Work (1,2,3)</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Assignment Paper (1,2,3)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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  130p-330p
Tuesday/Thursday  130p-330p
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:

- When you enrolled for classes, you signed up for a specific time and day for the practicum class. This means that you are expected to show up to class on those days/times. Credit for attendance each day is given for completing the entire 2 hour block. The class time should be treated as any other class time. Plan on being there the full time, and not to disappear for smoke breaks, bathroom trips, visiting, etc...
- **It is your responsibility for logging your hours. You will use the link on Blackboard to log time for practicum, scholarship, and other hours worked.**
- In addition to the class meeting times, you also are required to attend both of the strikes for the major theatre productions. Those are February 17 for the One Acts and May 4 for Rent.
- To pass the class, attendance at your assigned lab time is required. You may not miss a class without a penalty. For every 2 hours missed, your grade will go down by a letter.
- You may miss no more than 4 classes. When you miss the 5th class meeting, you will fail the course. For the Friday only practicum section, missing 3 classes will result in your failing the course.
- Tardies are frowned upon. Every 2 tardies counts as an absence. Tardies can affect your final grade.
- There are no "excused" or "unexcused" absences. Every absence counts towards the total. If you plan to miss a class time, **you MUST email BEFORE CLASS either Derek and Chasity (depending on what shop you are assigned to) AND me.** Absences for illness must be documented within 24 hours of missing a class.
- Leaving the shop for a smoke break is not allowed during your class time.
- You must let your supervisor know if you need to leave the shop for a bathroom break.
- You will be assigned to one of the 2 shops (scene or costume). I will make those assignments.
- 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.**

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:
Using shop time to discuss non-class topics, non-engagement, and absence will eat away at your grade.
## 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](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-Discrimenation
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.
### Formating/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.

### Work Calls

Since this is a course in an applied art (technical theatre,) you’ll be gaining hands-on knowledge of how a theatrical production is created. Your grade will be determined by the total number of hours worked in the class and your attitude & successfulness in the shop. You will be working in either the costume shop or the scene shop during the work period. You must log your attendance with either Derek or Chasity. Also, please note that attitude and prompt arrival and fulfilling of assigned duties will impact your grade. Professor Burnett will assign you to a work area at the beginning of the semester.

Satisfactory - attends all work calls on time, properly dressed, does satisfactory work, follows directions

Above Average - learns from assignments, demonstrates knowledge of shop equipment and building procedures, and takes initiative in planning process for assigned work

Excellence - can work without supervision, demonstrates desire to learn from each assignment, demonstrates understanding of overall concept for work in shop/development in skills as a craftsman, interest in seeing completed work in performance

When completing your hours, it is up to YOU to fill out the time log each time you work and have your supervisor sign it. If you fail to do this, then those hours will not count towards your total.
Production Assignment Paper
All students enrolled in TH1101 will also complete a 3 – 4 page paper describing your production assignments and how they contributed to your growth as a theatre artist. This paper is due on **May 3, 2019** and must be turned in via Blackboard.

Scholarship Hours
Students on Theatre Scholarship may count some of the hours towards the fulfillment of this course. However, as stated previously, it is the student’s responsibility to log these hours and have them initialed at each work call.

https://tinyurl.com/ArtsASUTimeLog

It is your responsibility for logging your hours. You will use this link (also found on Blackboard and Basecamp) to log time for practicum, scholarship, and other hours worked.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 2, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Shop Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 3, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Shop Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 4, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Shop Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, May 5, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td>Saturday, May 6, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<td>Monday, May 7, 2023</td>
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<td>Tuesday, May 8, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 9, 2023</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Shop Organization</td>
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**Spring Break - No Class**

- March 14, 2023
- March 28, 2023
- April 1, 2023
- April 17, 2023
- May 2, 2023

- Winter Break - No Class
- December 24, 2022
- December 25, 2022
- December 26, 2022
- January 1, 2023

**T/F**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Yes
4. Yes
5. No

Preliminary Weekly Schedule