

Theatre Practicum I

TH 1120 | Spring 2022

Instructor Information

Rick Reeves

Visiting Professor of Theatrical Design

Rreeves4@angelo.edu

Office: Carr EFA | Room 165 | Direct line: 325.942.2085

Office Hours: by appointment. Please make an appointment due to COVID. We can also meet via Zoom or facetime.

Course Description

Practicum in theatre open to all students with emphasis on technique and procedures with experience gained in play productions.

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

Course Specific Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

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 as available in scenic designs for the semester
4. The student will have hands-on experience working on a production crew for a live theatre performance.

Course Requirements

1. Participation
2. Good attitude and work ethic
3. Following all safety and instructional policies and guidelines
4. Proper attire as detailed in the handbook

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 and directly outside near the scene shop, proper attire must be worn. Scene Shop

- Closed-toed shoes (sandals, flip-flops, or heels are not allowed)
- Either shorts or long-pants must be worn at all times (skirts, or dresses are not allowed)
- 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. You must arrive in proper attire ready to work at the correct time.

If you are on production crew

- Closed-toed BLACK shoes (sandals, flip-flops, or heels are not allowed)
- Long all black pants
- Long sleeve, all black top that covers arms. No designs or colors. Solid black from neck to toe-we should see minimal skin because of the nature of theatre.
- 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. You must arrive in proper attire ready to work at the correct time.

Texts

Students are expected to read, understand, and follow the guidelines as presented in the ASU Theatre Safety & Shop Guidelines Handbook. This will be emailed to students prior to any start dates.

Assessment of Expected Learning Outcomes

This course will use a “point system” for all work, including tests and participation. There are 1000 points possible in this class. The breakdown is as follows:

Assignment Type	Point Value	Total Assignments	Total Points
Shop Work or Production Crew Hours	500	1	500
Participation	500	-	500
Total Points			1000

Participation and Hours

Points are earned for work and participation using the following rubric (time structure dependent on semester assignment):

A	B	C	D	F
Excellent: (Above Average and the following) can work with minimal 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	Above Average: (Satisfactory and the following) learns from assignments, attends all work calls on time, demonstrates knowledge of shop equipment and building procedures, and takes initiative in planning process for assigned work	Satisfactory: Is late more than two times, improperly dressed at least once, does satisfactory work, follows directions, displays satisfactory teamwork, communicates with Technical Director or Stage Manager as appropriate	Unsatisfactory: Is late more than four times, improperly dressed at least twice, does less than satisfactory work, follows directions half of the time, displays unsatisfactory teamwork, poor communication	Student does not meet any of the requirements as outlined in the syllabus or handbook during work calls, production calls, or class time.

Grading

Grades will be calculated using a 1000-point scale. You must earn the number of points listed below to receive the grade you want.

Point Breakdown Scale

Total Points	Letter Grade
1000-970	A+
969-920	A
919-890	A-
889-850	B+
849-810	B
809-780	B-

779-750	C+
749-710	C
709-660	C-
659-620	D+
619-590	D
589-550	D-
549-0	F

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.
- To pass the class, attendance at your assigned lab time (shop hours or production crew) 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.
- 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 the Technical Director. 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) if you do not wish to serve on a production crew. I will make those assignments and release those by the second week of classes.
- 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.
- Using shop time to discuss non-class topics, non-engagement, and absence will hurt your grade.
- You cannot make up an absence if you are on a production crew for credit. If you are subject to quarantine, let the instructor know immediately.
- If you need financial assistance obtaining black clothing for production crew, please let the instructor know ASAP.

Logging your time if you are assigned to shop work

It is your responsibility for logging your hours. You will use the link provided on Blackboard starting in September to log time for practicum, scholarship, and other hours worked. You must log your time for each day worked within 12 hours of completion. Failure to log your own hours is a matter of personal responsibility. If you are assigned to one of the shops, you will log your hours. If you are assigned to production crew, the stage manager of that production will be tracking attendance.

If you are working in one of the shops, hours will begin the week of August 23rd.

In-Course Technology

We will utilize Blackboard, Basecamp, and email for this course.

Content Disclosure

Courses within the Department usually deal with works of dramatic literature, both on the page and on the stage. Sometimes the situations, actions, and language of these works can be off-putting or offensive to some students, who might be offended

on such grounds as sexual explicitness, violence, or blasphemy. As the Department is devoted to the principle of free expression, artistic and otherwise, and it is not the Department's practice to censor these works on any of these grounds, students who might feel unduly distressed or made uncomfortable by such expressions should withdraw at the start of the term and seek another course.

Electronics Policy

Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom or during any class activity. Phones and other electronic devices are to be turned completely off (not just silenced) the moment you enter the studio and must remain off during the class period. Likewise, text messaging is prohibited in the classroom or during any class activity. Students utilizing the phone or messaging during class will be asked to leave the classroom and will receive an absence for the day. Messaging during an exam/performance will be considered an act of academic dishonesty. Computers and Ipads can be used in class for the purpose of note taking and research. Students misusing their computers (i.e. being on-line, or on social media) will lose their computer privileges for the duration of the course. Be physically and mentally present.

Course Work Load

Based on student's role/involvement in the specific production.

Late Work: No late assignments will be accepted. All assignments will be turned in via email or in person.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all production meetings, required rehearsals, and required performances of the University Theatre.

Please note: The only university-recognized excused absences are participation in official university business or for bona fide religious holy days. Participation in official university business must be documented by written notice from sponsoring faculty or staff member at last one week prior to the event.

Observance of a Religious Holy Day

Texas House Bill 256 requires institutions of higher education to excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. No prior notification of the instructor is required.

ADA Statement

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 Office of Student Services at (325) 942-2191, Student Life Office, room 112. If you need disability accommodations in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

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 (325) 942-2710.

Grade Appeal Process (OP 10.03 Student Grade Grievances)

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 in 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 Operating Procedure 10.03 at http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_PoliciesStudents/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc <http://www.angelo.edu/opmanual/docs/Section_10_Academic_Policies-Students/OP_10.03_Grade_Grievance.doc>

Honor Code Policy

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

Civility In the Classroom

Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have an opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by the instructor, students are prohibited from using laptop computers, cellular phones or other text messaging devices, beepers, eating or drinking (except for water bottles), making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any other form of distraction in the classroom.

In instances where a student is proved to be a distraction, the student will lose five points from their grade. Second occurrence will result in ten points removed. On the third occurrence, the student will be removed permanently from the classroom.

Additionally, in the case of a violation of this policy, the instructor will talk with the student about the inappropriate behavior immediately and will follow-up after class or with a scheduled meeting.

In the case of a second incident, the instructor will refer the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At this meeting or any subsequent meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in removal from the class.

If a third incident occurs, the instructor will ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses, the Campus Police will be called to remove the student. The student will be immediately dropped from the class and reported to the student Dean of Students office.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner: Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

Phone: 325-942-2022

E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325- 942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

Policy on Children in Class: Currently, the university does not have a formal policy on children in the classroom. The policy described here is thus, a reflection of my own beliefs and commitments to student, staff and faculty parents. If you are a parent, I invite you to discuss the following accommodations with me ASAP.

I hope that you will feel comfortable disclosing your student-parent status to me. This is the first step in my being able to accommodate any special needs that arise. Please know that your parenthood status is also protected by Title IX. While I maintain the same high expectations for all student in my classes regardless of parenting status, I am happy to problem solve with you in a way that makes you feel supported as you strive for school-parenting balance. Thank you for the diversity you bring to our classroom.

Normally, I allow children to be brought to our classrooms. However, with the current pandemic, no one besides students registered in the class are allowed in the room. If you must miss class due to your children's needs, please attend to them, and I will provide the lecture material for you.

Note from your instructor:

Our world is changing and these are challenging times. I will work to have all of our interactions be honest and meaningful. Safety is our number one priority this semester for everyone involved. Please do your part, and if you ever feel nervous or unsafe regarding your assignments, or any task you are asked to complete, please consult with the instructor immediately. If you do not feel comfortable with these course requirements, it would be best for you to take the class in different semester. -Professor Rick Reeves