

Scene Design I TPA 5067

FALL 2023

CREDIT HOURS: 3

University of Florida – College of Fine Arts, School of Theatre & Dance

Instructor: Mihai Ciupe

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Course Meets: Monday and Wednesday – 2ND and 3th period, room 218

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays – 4th period or by appointment

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OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this class is to develop a thorough understanding of the design process and its functions within the theatre production as well as within any other form of life performance event.

We will focus on developing conceptual thinking, creativity, ability to recognize and solve practical problems in designing for a particular space, and the collaborative design process.

The class also prepares students to present and discuss their work, as they will do in a professional situation.

The class also begins to develop materials that the designer will use to establish and promote a career opportunity.

Class time will be used also to identify strengths as well as areas for improvement in order to broaden and refine individual abilities.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

This course addresses the following program outcomes:

1. Giving the students background and developing skills necessary to design project work in the departmental curriculum.
2. Providing students with training and information required to complete design work in the practical production program.
3. Teaching students how to develop and apply research and creative skills during the design process as an essential component of assignments and production work.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand and use appropriate research for their design projects.
2. Organize and translate conceptual work into practical design applications.

3. Communicate ideas through sketches, renderings, 3D models and technical drawings.
4. Collaborate and communicate with the other members of a design team.
5. Present their preliminary and finished work in a clear, professional manner.
6. Manage their time efficiently.

REQUIRED SOFTWARE AND MATERIALS:

-AutoCAD, SketchUp, Photoshop, Lumion, Concepts
 -model building tools (-#11 X-acto knife and blades, SOBO glue, metal straight edge, etc.) , water color set, 14/17 water color paper, large mixing palette, paintbrushes: #0, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10 and a 1-1/2" to 2" regular paintbrush.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

The success of this course is based on discussion and class participation. Attendance is vital. Only one (1) unexcused absences from class will be permitted without penalty. The second unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. The third unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 15%. The fourth unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 30%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence.

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>) and require appropriate documentation.

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GRADING:

The projects will be evaluated and critiqued in stages, with the project grade based on these stages of work, including artistic/conceptual work, application of feedback, presentation, and **adherence to deadlines.**

The grading scale will be as follows:

| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----|--------|----|--------|
| A | 94-100 % | A- | 90-93% | B+ | 87-89% |
| B | 83-86% | B- | 80-82% | C+ | 77-79% |
| C | 73-76% | C- | 70-72% | D | 68-69% |
| | | E | 0-67% | | |

The university grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The final grade for the semester will be weighted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Project # 1 | 25 % |
| Project # 2 | 25% |
| Project # 3 | 20 % |
| Project # 4 | 20 % |
| Class Participation | 10 % |

Late work will be reduced by one letter grade per day.

NOTE: Any project for which **no work is submitted** will be deducted from the final grade at a rate of four times the assigned percentage value above, e.g., a project weighted as 10% of the grade will result in a deduction of 40% of the final grade, 15% at 60%, 20% at 80%.

It is not possible to pass this class without submitting work for each assignment.

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCES:

Since production is the laboratory for all theatre courses, attendance at all main stage Department of Theatre and Dance productions is required of students enrolled in classes with the following prefix designations: THE, TPA, TPP, ORI. Critiques of and/or responses to these productions may be required.

Attendance at all related events is encouraged. You should also attempt to see the following productions at the Phillips Center: *Camelot*, Les Ballets Jazz de Montreal, and Keigwin & Company.

USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

The use of cell phones or other mobile devices is disruptive, and therefore is prohibited during class. Except in emergencies, those using such devices must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period. Students using the computer for work not related to the class must leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.

ONLINE COURSE EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from

GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

HONESTY POLICY: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/studentconduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

CLASS DEMEANOR

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones. Eating is not allowed during this class.

Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

STUDENTS REQUIRING ACCOMMODATIONS:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

IN CLASS RECORDING:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connections with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or preparation for a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor. Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class session. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is

considered published if it is posted or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Disclaimer: This syllabus represents the instructor's current plans and objectives. As we go through the semester, those plans may need to change to enhance the class learning opportunity. Such changes, communicated clearly, are not unusual and should be expected.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: counseling.ufl.edu/cwc, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS)
Student Health Care Center, 392-1161.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or police.ufl.edu.

DUE DATES:

Projects are due at the start of class time and will be critiqued during the session. Failure to have a project ready on time reduces the effectiveness of the class meeting and it will affect its grading. If you foresee a need for extra time on a project, bring it to my attention and a possible extension will be considered. Students who do not gain approval for time extensions will have their projects graded as late and are subject to reduction of one letter grade for each session that is late. If a project is more than two sessions late without approval it will be regarded as a failure.

Recommended Readings:

The Craft and Art of Scenic Design: Strategies, Concepts, and Resources
1st edition by Robert Klingelhofer ISBN-13: 978-1138937642.

Show Case: Developing, Maintaining, and Presenting a Design Tech

Portfolio for Theatre and Allied Fields by Rafael Jaen, second edition
ISBN-13: 978-0240819266.

Week I

Aug. 23

- discussing the syllabi.
- students will bring their own work portfolio and present their work in class.
- assigning **Project #1: Designing the space for *A Delicate Balance*.**

Week II

Aug. 28

- analyzing the script in class; concept ideas.
- visual composition and theatre design: line shape, color, volume, and texture.
- analyzing realized set design work from the perspective of visual composition.

Aug. 30

- class presentation and critique of: concept, rough sketches, visual research and rough ground plans.
- discussion about how to present your work in progress in a professional manner.
- What are the goals?
 - communication and collaboration within the design team
 - communication and collaboration with the director.
 - communication and collaboration with the technical director

Week III

Sept. 4 LABOR DAY

Sept. 6

- **written concept due.**
- ground plans and sketches (work in progress): class presentation and critique.
how to efficiently use AutoCad for 2D drafting.
- real and virtual 3D model: discussion.
- Introduction to on campus available resources: Field trip to the **FabLab**.
- how to use the laser cutting machine.

Week IV

Sept. 11

- ground plan due.**
- how to use **SketchUp** to produce a more accurate color rendering.
- working in class on the final color rendering.
- discussion on color variations and how to use the computer to quickly achieve that.

Sept. 13

¼” model of the space (without the set) due.

- working class on the final color rendering.
- discussion about the role of the color rendering as part of the final design package; analyzing color renderings produced in different type of media by professional set designers.
- possible discussion and collaboration session with our TD, Robert Leach.

Week V

Sept. 18

-Drafting package due: class presentation and critique (Technical Director invited).

Sept. 20

- Final color rendering due.**
- working in class on the model.

Week VI

Sept. 25

- Project #1 due: class presentation and critique.**
- photographing your model by using the Luxam Light System.
- assigning **Project #2: Designing the space for *The Visit*.**

Sept. 27

- analyzing the script from a set designer point of view.
- class discussions about the play; concept ideas.
- building a professional Portfolio for the Set Designer: what to include and how to present it.

Week VII

Oct. 2

- work in progress: class presentation and critique.
- building a professional virtual portfolio: options and introduction for building a webpage.

Oct. 4

- written concept due.**
- class presentation and critique of rough sketches, visual research and rough ground plans.

Week VIII

Oct. 9

- Work in progress: class presentation and critique.
- functions of the set: discussion in class.

Oct. 11

- ground plan due.**
- storyboarding: a great tool of communication.
- options on how to do it and why.

Week IX

Oct. 16

- ¼” model of the space (without the set) due.** -working in class on the final color rendering.
- working in class on the story boards.
- discussion and collaboration session with our TD, Eben Alguire

Oct. 18

- working in class on the final color rendering.
- working in class on the story boards.

Week X

Oct. 23

- Drafting package due: class presentation and critique (Technical Director Invited)**
- imitation or essence: the creativity of the set designer within the frame of a period style
- class work on web designing your webpage.

Oct. 25

- working in class on the final color rendering and story boards.

Week XI

Oct. 30

- Final color rendering and storyboarding due: class presentation and critique.**
- paint elevations: how to produce a professional paint elevation for the shop.

Nov.1

- working in class on the model.

Week XII

Nov. 6

- paint elevations due**
- working in class on the model.

Nov. 8

- working in class on the model.

Week XIII

Nov. 13

- Project #2 due: class presentation and critique.**

Nov. 15

- students will work on their virtual portfolios (webpages).
- assigning **Project #3: fast conceptual exercises**
- assigning two scripts that require multiple sets.

Week XIV

Nov. 20

- concept approach, visual research, rough ground plans, sketches and working models on script 1 (class presentation and discussions) -class work on script # 1.

Nov. 22 THANKS GIVING BREAK

Week XV

Nov. 27

Final Design presentation on script #1

- concept approach, visual research, rough ground plans, sketches and working models on script 2 (class presentation and discussions) -class work on script.

Nov. 29

- concept approach, visual research, rough ground plans, sketches and working models on script # 2 (class presentation and discussions).
- class work on script # 2.

Week XVI

Dec. 4

Final Design presentation on script # 2

- class work on your webpage and portfolio.

Dec. 6

Final presentation: Review and discussion of the entire class work produced over the semester.

PROJECTS AND CRITICAL DATES

Project #1:

Designing the space for *H A Delicate Balance*

Venue: Black Box Theatre, School of Theatre and Dance

DUE DATE: Sept. 25

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| -visual research and written concept | due date: Sept. 6 |
| -ground plan | due date: Sept.11 |
| -model of the theatre | due date: Sept.13 |
| -drafting package | due date: Sept. 18 |
| -color rendering | due date: Sept. 20 |
| -1/4"color model | due date: Sept. 25 |

Project #2:

Designing the space for *The Visit*

Venue: Constans Theatre, School of Theatre and Dance

DUE DATE: Nov. 13

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| -written concept | due date: Oct. 2 |
| -ground plan | due date: Oct.11 |
| -model of the theatre | due date: Oct. 16 |
| -drafting package | due date: Oct. 23 |
| -color rendering and story boarding | due date: Oct. 30 |
| -painted elevations | due date: Nov. 6 |
| -1/4"color model | due date: Nov.13 |

Project #3:

Fast conceptual exercises

DUE DATE: Nov. 27, Dec. 4

Two plays (TBA)

For each one the student will turn in: written concept, visual research, ground plan, rough sketches, white model.

Project # 4: professional webpage

DUE DATE: Dec. 6

PREPARING AND PRESENTING YOUR WORK:

Assignments should be prepared for presentation **prior to the beginning of class**. During presentations, you should be paying attention to your colleagues rather than setting up or completing your own work.

All work should be presented in a neat, organized manner, clearly and legibly labeled, including your name.