Theatre 393L Scenic Painting
Fall 2021
Fisher Theatre
Tuesday & Thursday 9:30AM – 10:50AM

Instructor: Natalie Hining    Phone #: 641-954-1354    Email: nhining@isastate.edu
Office: Fisher 0014B (Inside Fisher Theater Scene shop)
Office Hours: MWF 10:30AM – 12:00PM or TR 11:00AM -12:00PM

Course Objective:
The intent of this course is to introduce students to the basic elements of Scenic painting for the theatre. We will be reading content from the textbook, “Scenic Art for the Theatre.” The course will cover history, tools, and techniques used specifically in theatrical painting, by reading through the textbook, working on projects for the class, and doing lab hours working on actual sets for the ISU Theatre Productions. Students should leave this class with a better understanding of basic scenic painting techniques such as muslin backdrop painting, creating faux textures, and color mixing.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance to all class sessions either in person, or via web conferencing
2. Completion of all class exercises and projects
3. Completion of 12 lab hours working in the ISU Theatre Scene Shop working on ISU productions
4. An active ISU email account

Text (optional):
Scenic Art for the Theatre
By Susan Crabtree and Peter Beudert
Publisher: Routledge; 3rd Edition (2011)

Equipment:
Architectural scale ruler (NOT ENGINEERING SCALE!)
Set of watercolor paints

Lab Hours:
There are 12 lab hours required for this class. In these labs, students will be working on painting pieces of the shows for ISU Theatre Productions. Students should set up lab times with instructor as soon as possible.

Attendance:
One of the requirements for this class is attendance. This will account for 15% of the final overall grade. Missing multiple classes will not result in an automatic academic penalty; however, you will lose your daily points unless you have contacted me prior to the beginning of class. Most of your projects will need to be worked on in class, and the hours that you will be able to come in outside of regular class time are limited, so, it is in your best interest to attend
class. I will be counting attendance roughly halfway through the class period, if you are not in attendance within 40 minutes you will be counted as absent, unless you have contacted me ahead of time.

**Projects:**
Most of your grade this semester is determined by your work on in class projects. Over the course of the semester, you will be working on 8 projects. As stated in the attendance portion of the syllabus, hours of availability to work on your project outside of class will be limited. It is not impossible, but you will need to contact me about any times that you plan on working outside of class. In most cases the shop hours are 9:00AM – 5:00PM M-F. These hours are subject to change due to; faculty/production meetings, other classes that I teach, and needs of the shop during productions.

**Grading Outline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop lab hours (12/semester)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Chip Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Wheel Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Texture Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carving Rock Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Branch Project</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettering Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslin Stretching Project</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Points</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Grade Scale:**

- **A** 93% - 100%
- **A-** 90% - 92%
- **B+** 87% - 89%
- **B** 83% - 86%
- **B-** 80% - 82%
- **C+** 77% - 79%
- **C** 73% - 76%
- **C-** 70% - 72%
- **D+** 67% - 69%
- **D** 63% - 66%
- **D-** 60% - 62%
- **F** 59% or Below
**Project Descriptions:**

**Color Chip Project**
Students will use watercolor paints to paint small samples of the three primary, three secondary colors, and six tertiary colors. The purpose of this project is to begin to understand the basics of color mixing. Once students have painted out what they think are the “true” primary and secondary colors, we will lay them out as a group and make a larger color wheel containing all the sample chips.

**Color Wheel Project**
Students will choose a black and white photo or painting of their choosing and recreate it using black and white scenic paints, along with accents of the primary and secondary colors. Students will be able to start learning the basic techniques of gridding an image, cartooning an image onto a larger canvas, and painting in a larger scale. This will also give students the opportunity to get used to using scenic paint.

**4 Texture Project**
Students will choose 4 different textures such as woodgrain, marble, scumbles, and gradients. They will divide a flat into 4 different sections and using different values of two colors will recreate these textures on the flat.

**Rock Carving Project**
Students will choose an image of a rock wall and recreate it using pick foam and carving tools. After the sample has been carved out, students will create a coating material or “goop” that will protect the foam they have carved. After the coating material is dried, students will mix colors of scenic paint to recreate the texture of the rocks in the photo.

**Tree Branch Project**
Students will choose an image of a tree branch of their choosing and sculpt it out of found materials. Students can choose materials such as fabric, foam, or clay to construct the branch. After the branch is constructed, it should be painted using scenic paint to match the colors on the image.

**Lettering Project**
Students will be assigned a font that they will need to scale up as if it is written in 1/2” scale.

**Muslin Stretching Project**
Students will learn how to build a very basic frame and stretch a piece of muslin to the frame to create a suitable painting surface for their final project.

**Final Project**
Students will choose a work of art that they are drawn to and attempt to recreate it on their frame from the Muslin Stretching project. The work of art that they choose should contain at several different textures, and colors. The purpose of this project is to work on creating more photo realistic recreations. All images need to be approved by the instructor before beginning.
Class Schedule:

Week 1
T 8/24
  Intro into Class
  Read Syllabus
R 8/26
  Discuss Chapter 6
  Assign Color Chip Project
  Work on Color Chip Project

Week 2
T 8/31
  Due – Color Chip Project
  Discuss Chapter 5 and Chapter 8
  Assign – Color Wheel Project
R 9/2
  Work on Color Wheel Project

Week 3
T 8/7
  Work on Color Wheel Project
  Due – Color Wheel Project
R 8/9
  Discuss Textures in Class
  Demo Textures
  Assign 4 Texture Project

Week 4
T 8/14
  Work on Texture Project in Class
R 8/16
  Work on Texture Project in Class
  Due – 4 Texture Project

Week 5
T 8/21
  Discuss Carving and Sculpting for the Stage
  Assign – Rock Carving Project
R 8/23
  Work on Rock Carving Project
Week 6
T 8/28
   Work on Rock Carving Project
R 8/30
   Work on Rock Carving Project
Due – Rock Carving Project

Week 7
T 10/5
   Discuss Tree Branch Project
   Assign – Tree Branch Project
R 10/7
   Work on Tree Branch Project

Week 8
T 10/12
   Work on Tree Branch Project
R 10/14
   Work on Tree Branch Project
Due – Tree Branch Project

Week 9
T 10/19
   Discuss lettering Project
   Assign Lettering Project
R 10/21
   Work on Lettering Project
Due - Lettering Project

Week 10
T 10/26
   Discuss Materials
   Assign Muslin Stretching project
R 10/28
   Work on Muslin Stretching project

Week 11
T 11/2
   Work on Muslin Stretching Project
R 11/4
   Work on Muslin Stretching Project
Due – Muslin Stretching Project
Week 12
T 11/8
  Work on Street Scene Project
R 11/11
  Work on Street Scene Project

Week 13
T 11/16
  Discuss / Assign Final Project
R 11/18
  Bring in Photos for Final Project

Week 14
NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15
T 11/30
  Work on Final Project
R 12/2
  Work on Final Project

Week 16
T 12/7
  Work on Final Project
R 12/9
  Work on Final Project

FINAL PROJECT DUE – TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH AT 9:45AM
Iowa State University Policies

Free Expression Policy
Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and the principle of academic freedom in order to foster a learning environment where open inquiry and the vigorous debate of a diversity of ideas are encouraged. Students will not be penalized for the content or viewpoints of their speech as long as student expression in a class context is germane to the subject matter of the class and conveyed in an appropriate manner.

Academic Dishonesty
The class will follow Iowa State University’s policy on academic dishonesty. Anyone suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Accessibility Statement
Iowa State University is committed to assuring that all educational activities are free from discrimination and harassment based on disability status. Students requesting accommodations for a documented disability are required to work directly with staff in Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to establish eligibility and learn about related processes before accommodations will be identified. After eligibility is established, SAS staff will create and issue a Notification Letter for each course listing approved reasonable accommodations. This document will be made available to the student and instructor either electronically or in hard-copy every semester. Students and instructors are encouraged to review contents of the Notification Letters as early in the semester as possible to identify a specific, timely plan to deliver/receive the indicated accommodations. Reasonable accommodations are not retroactive in nature and are not intended to be an unfair advantage. Additional information or assistance is available online at www.sas.dso.iastate.edu, by contacting SAS staff by email at accessibility@iastate.edu, or by calling 515-294-7220. Student Accessibility Services is a unit in the Dean of Students Office located at 1076 Student Services Building.

Face Masks Encouraged:
Because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, all students are encouraged—but not required—to wear face masks, consistent with current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Further information on the proper use of face masks is available at: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/effective-masks.html

Vaccinations Encouraged:
All students are encouraged to receive a vaccination against COVID-19. Multiple locations are available on campus for free, convenient vaccination. Further information is available at: https://web.iastate.edu/safety/updates/covid19/vaccinations. Vaccinations may also be obtained from health care providers and pharmacies.

Physical Distancing Encouraged for Unvaccinated Individuals:
Classrooms and other campus spaces are operating at normal capacities, and physical distancing by faculty, staff, students, and visitors to campus is not required. However, unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to continue to physically distance themselves from others when possible.
Discrimination and Harassment
Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, ethnicity, religion, national origin, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, sex, marital status, disability, or status as a U.S. Veteran. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies may be directed to Office of Equal Opportunity, 3410 Beardshear Hall, 515 Morrill Road, Ames, Iowa 50011, Tel. 515-294-7612, Hotline 515-294-1222, email eooffice@iastate.edu

Prep Week
This class follows the Iowa State University Prep Week policy as noted in section 10.6.4 of the Faculty Handbook.

Religious Accommodation
Iowa State University welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request the reasonable accommodation for religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing. The instructor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course. For students, you should first discuss the conflict and your requested accommodation with your professor at the earliest possible time. You or your instructor may also seek assistance from the Dean of Students Office at 515-294-1020 or the Office of Equal Opportunity at 515-294-7612.

Contact Information for Academic Issues
If you are experiencing, or have experienced, a problem with any of the above statements, email academicissues@iastate.edu