

**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](mailto: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; 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2011)

ISBN-13: 978-0240812908 ISBN-10: 0240812905

**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**

Attendance	15%
Shop lab hours (12/semester)	15%
Color Chip Project	5%
Color Wheel Project	5%
Four Texture Project	5%
Carving Rock Project	10%
Tree Branch Project	10%
Lettering Project	5%
Muslin Stretching Project	5%
<u>Final Project</u>	<u>25%</u>
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **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 14<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu), by contacting SAS staff by email at [accessibility@iastate.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:academicissues@iastate.edu)