FUNDAMENTALS OF MODERN THEATRE PRACTICE (Intro to Theatre Production)
THEATRE 255
Class: 0338 Carver Design Lab
Lab: Fisher Theater Scene Shop and Costume Shop
Spring 2021
4 Credits
MWF 8:50-9:40

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TTH 11:00-11:50 or by apt.

COVID-19 INFO: Most of the classes this semester will be meeting in Carver. There will be exception though, so you will have to look at your schedule carefully and pay attention to announcements both in class and through Canvas! Masks, hand sanitizing cleaning tool/work areas will be mandatory with all lab and class times. It is imperative to follow all the ISU Covid-19 guidelines to create a safe environment for everyone! If there is an outbreak we may have to move some of the class time online via Webex. Let’s hope this doesn’t happen!

ISU COVID-19 health and safety requirements:
Students are responsible for abiding by the university’s COVID-19 health and safety expectations. All students attending this class in-person are required to follow university policy regarding health, safety, and face coverings:

- wear a cloth face covering in all university classrooms, laboratories, studios, and other in-person instructional settings and learning spaces. Cloth face coverings are additionally required to be worn indoors in all university buildings, and outdoors when other people are or may be present where physical distancing of at least 6 feet from others is not possible. Students with a documented health or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a cloth face covering should consult with Student Accessibility Services in the Dean of Students Office.
- ensure that the cloth face covering completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the side of the face.
- practice physical distancing to the extent possible.
- assist in maintaining a clean and sanitary environment.
- not attend class if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- not attend class if you have been told to self-isolate or quarantine by a health official.
- follow the instructor’s guidance with respect to these requirements. Failure to comply constitutes disruptive classroom conduct. Faculty and teaching assistants have the authority to deny a non-compliant student entry into a classroom, laboratory, studio, conference room, office, or other learning space.

These requirements extend outside of scheduled class time, including coursework in laboratories, studios, and other learning spaces, and to field trips. These requirements may be revised by the university at any time during the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The intent of this course is to introduce the student to basic stagecraft, scenic, costume and lighting practices through online lectures, group projects, research, labs, and practical experience. Various challenges and solutions encompassing all aspects of design & technical
theatre will be explored and discussed. Students will also learn the value of collaborating with other students to achieve a better understanding of the concept of all aspects of theatre productions. An emphasis will be placed on inclusiveness and the issues confronting us in this time of flux and change. What is the role of the production side of theatre in a challenging and changing world?

**LEARNING OUTCOME:**
The student will acquire a basic understanding of the craft of theatrical production
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to draft and design sets
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to sew
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to research costumes
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to build scenery
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to paint scenery
The student will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to design lighting & instruments
The students will acquire the basic skills and knowledge to understand the collaborative nature of production through group projects

**MANDATORY ATTENDANCE:** Iowa State University Attendance Policy reads: “Students are expected to attend class meetings as scheduled. Each instructor sets his or her policy on class attendance, and excuses for absence from class are handled between the student and the instructor.” *There is a total of 210 points (5pts per class) for attendance during the semester. These are easy points to receive if you attend. You will receive 4 excused absences for illness, family issue or other class needs (you must notify me ahead of the day of class). When you go beyond 4 absences you will receive a notice from me. This policy will be adhered to stringently. If you come to class late and miss up to 20 minutes you will receive half the point for attending class that day. YOU NEED TO SIGN YOURSELF IN FOR EACH IN PERSON CLASS! DO THIS AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS!*

**REQUIRED TEXT** - may be purchased at the University Book Store
*Scenic Design and Stage Lighting* (most recent addition)
W. Oren Parker, R. Craig Wolf & Dick Block
9th Edition
Wadsworth Cengage Learning

**REQUIRED EQUIPMENT**
Personal 16’-0” tape measure (optional) and safety goggles (may be purchased at Lowe’s or Walmart)

**STUDIO LAB:** You are required to schedule a 3hour studio lab session each week. It is the intention that this lab be used as an opportunity to become involved in the technical aspects of theatre and to give you a better understanding of the theatrical process of going from thoughts, concepts, and ideas…to lumber, paint, light and fabric. The hours work out to 42 total hours per semester. Any extra hours you wish to put in will be considered extra credit and will help your final grade. There may also be **REQUIRED** studio calls that will not count toward your hour total lab hours. Natalie Hining the Scene Shop Supervisor and will be monitoring your hours. Lab hours are worth **210pts** (5 pts per hour) for the semester. It is recommended that old and grubby clothes be worn on lab days since this is "hands on" experience. Hard toed shoes should be worn. Scenic Shop & costume shop lab hours are: 2:00-4:00 (once a week on the day you registered for it)

**NO FLIP-FLOPS/SANDALS OR OPEN SHOES ARE ALLOWED!**

**GRADING:**
210 pts Class Attendance
210 pts Lab Attendance
100 pts 2 Productions Critiques
700 pts Costume, Scenic Painting & Scenic Design Projects
650 pts 3 Group/Presentations
100 pts Sewing Project
200 pts Final
2120 pts Total (NOTE: This total will may change due to unknown Covid-19 circumstances and ISU Theatre Production changes)

Grade Scale Point Scale
100-93 A
92-90 A-
89-87 B+
86-83 B
82-80 B-
79-77 C+
76-73 C
72-70 C-
69-67 D+
66-63 D
62-60 D-
59-0 F

Late assignments will not be accepted!

STRIKE CALLS: There will be one strike call at the end of the semester for “Songs for a New World”.

PRODUCTION CRITIQUES: You are required to view two ISU Theatre productions and fill out a critique. 100 pts total (50 pts each) Submit on Canvas.

USHERING: There is no ushering this semester due to no live theatre productions. (This may change for the last production, so please look for updates on this.)

STUDIO SHOP HOURS DURING THE WEEK:
Costume Shop hours are: Scenic Shop hours are:
9:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00 M-F 1:00-5:00 M-F

NOTE: Additional Lab hours maybe added and will be announced in class before they occur.

SCHEDULE:
DATES, CHAPTERS & SUBJECT (LOCATION)(PRESENTER)
- Class introduction
- ASSIGN: ISU Safety Courses (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob & Natalie)
27 Jan. Wed.
- Tool & Equip. presentation (Fisher Theatre) (Natalie in Fisher Theater)
29 Jan. Fri.
- Tool & Equip. presentation (Fisher Theatre) (Natalie in Fisher Theater)

1 Feb. Mon.
- DUE: Safety Courses
- ASSIGN: GROUP TOOL/EQUIP & FLAT/PLATFORM PROJECT
- ASSIGN: chap. 7&8 in textbook, Tools/Equip PPT & Flats/Platforms PPT
- Discussion/Lecture about Projects (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
3 Feb. Wed.
- Work on Group Tool/Equip & Flat/Platform Project
• Discussion/Lecture about Project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
5 Feb. Fri.
• Work on Group Project and Lecture (Check-in via Webex Rob)
8 Feb. Mon.
• **ASSIGN: Flat/Platform model project**
  • Flat/Platform Model Construction work in class (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
10 Feb. Wed.
• Flat/Platform Model Construction (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
12 Feb. Fri.
• Work on Group Construction Model Project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
15 Feb. Mon.
• **DUE: Flats/Platforms model (100pts)**
• **DUE: GROUP PRESENTATION: Tools/Equip, Flats/Platforms (250pts)**
• **DUE: REPORT PAPER: Tools, Equip, Flats & Platforms (Submit on Canvas)**
  (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
17 Feb. Wed.
• Lighting (0338 Carver Design Lab and/or Fisher) (Will)
19 Feb. Fri.
• Lighting (0338 Carver Design Lab and/or Fisher) (Will)
22 Feb. Mon.
• Lighting (0338 Carver Design Lab and/or Fisher) (Will)
24 Feb. Wed.
• Lighting (0338 Carver Design Lab and/or Fisher) (Will)
26 Feb. Fri.
• **ASSIGN: Chap.10 in textbook; Handling Scenery & Softgoods Project**
• Discuss Handling Scenery & Softgoods Project (0338 Carver Design Lab Rob)
1 Mar. Mon.
• Present Fly System and Rigging (Fisher Theater) (Natalie & Rob)
• **ASSIGN: GROUP PROJECT: Fly System, Rigging & Handling Scenery**
• **DUE: Chap.10 in textbook; Handling Scenery & Softgoods PPT**
3 Mar. Wed.
• Work in class Soft Goods/Handling Scenery group project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
5 Mar. Fri.
• Tour of Cy Stephens Auditorium (Cy Stephens dock door) (CY Staff)
8 Mar. Mon.
• Work on Soft Goods/Handling Scenery group project (Check-in via Webex Rob)
10 Mar. Wed.
• **DUE: PRESENTATION: Fly/Rigging/Softgoods (200pts)** (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
• **DUE: REPORT PAPER: Fly/Rigging/Softgoods (Submit on Canvas)**
12 Mar. Fri.
• **ASSIGN: Chap. 1, 2, 4 & 5 in textbook; Organization & Theatre Space PPTS**
• **ASSIGN: Group Research Paper Theatre Space & Organization**
• Work on Theatre Space & Organization Research Paper (Check-in via Webex) (Rob)
15 Mar. Mon.
• Sewing Project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Kelly)
• **DUE: Chap. 1, 2, 4 & 5 in textbook; Organization & Theatre Space PPTS**
17 Mar. Wed.
• Sewing Project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Kelly)
19 Mar. Fri.
• Work at home day on Theatre Space & Organization Research Project (Webex check-in) (Rob)
22 Mar. Mon.
• Work on Theatre Space & Organization Research Paper (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
24 Mar. Wed.
• Check-in and work on Theatre Space & Organization Research Paper (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
26 Mar. Fri.
• **DUE: Arch. Theatre Space/Organization Research Paper on Canvas (200pts)**
• DUE: Sewing Project (100pts)
• DUE: “Facing Our Truth” Critique submit on canvas
• Check-in on due projects (Check-in via Webex Rob)

29 Mar. Mon.
• ASSIGN: Chap 9 in textbook
• Group 1 Scenic Painting: (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)

31 Mar. Wed.
• Group 2 Scenic Painting: (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)

2 April Fri.
• Scenic Painting: (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)
• DUE: Texture painting (100pts)

5 April Mon.
• Group 1 Scenic Painting: (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)

7 April Wed.
• Group 2 Scenic Painting: (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)

9 April Fri.
• Scenic Painting (dress for painting) (Fisher Scene Shop) (Rob)
• DUE: Final painting project (200pts)

12 April Mon.
• ASSIGN: Ground plan, sketch & dimensions of room model project
• Show examples scenic design process
• Work on Drafting GP & wall elevations (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)

14 April Wed.
• Work on Drafting GP & wall elevation on-line (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)

16 April Fri.
• Check-in on Drafting GP & wall elevation (0338 Carver Design Lab or Check-in via Webex) (Rob)
• DUE: Drafting GP & Wall Elevation (100pts)

19 April Mon.
• DUE: Model Box of room (100pts)
• Work on model box of the room (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)

21 April Wed.
• Work on scenic design & character research (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
• ASSIGN: Scenic Model, Character Research & Story Project

23 April Fri.
• Check-in scenic design & character research (0338 Carver Design Lab or check-in via Webex) (Rob)
• DUE: 1- page synopsis of your story or play & 5 - visual abstracted images that convey the feeling of your story

26 April Mon.
• Work on scenic design & character research project (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
• DUE: “Songs for a New World” Critique (Submit on Canvas)

28 April Wed.
• Check-in work on story, character research & model box (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)

30 April Fri.
• Check-in character research & scenic model (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)

5 May Wed.
• FINAL: 9:45am - 11:45am (0338 Carver Design Lab) (Rob)
• PRESENT: Scenic model/synopsis/design concept statement & character research (Submit Concept & Character Research on Canvas) (300pts)

SCENE SHOP ACCESS & POLICIES: The classes in Fisher will be meeting in the shops during the semester. You may enter the shop during the lab days through the dock door entrance on the north east corner of the building.
**Free Expression:** Iowa State University supports and upholds the First Amendment protection of freedom of speech ([https://bit.ly/isu-freedomspeech](https://bit.ly/isu-freedomspeech)) and the principle of academic freedom ([https://bit.ly/regents-academicfreedom](https://bit.ly/regents-academicfreedom)) 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.

**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 [http://www.sas.dso.iastate.edu](http://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.