

2014

THTR 150-01 Stagecraft

Dave Zlatic

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THTR 150 – Stagecraft

Contact Information

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Office Hours

Mon & Wednesday – 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
I am also typically available Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 12:00pm-6:00pm in the Scene Shop
Other time available by appointment

Course Overview – Stagecraft 150 will cover the basic materials, tools, techniques, and standard accepted practices involved in each aspect of technical theater. The student will also learn the basics in scale drawing and the process of communicating design ideas through drafting.

Course Objectives – By the conclusion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1.) Recognize the tools and equipment involved in lighting, rigging, construction, and painting.
- 2.) Understand and identify the materials and hardware used in technical theater applications
- 3.) Read and understand a scale drawing/blueprint
- 4.) Produce their own scale drawings
- 5.) Construct basic set elements and understand set rigging
- 6.) Understand the importance of safety in design and production. While there will be no specific class on safety alone, it will be addressed in each and every class and is an essential part of technical theater.
- 7.) Understand the “art” of theatre and the basics of design

Class Procedure

Stagecraft will be a combination of lecture, class discussion, class participation, and outside shop participation. Student input is always welcomed and encouraged.

Grading Breakdown

Exams – 45%
 Three exams (10% each)
 Final exam (15%)
Assignments – 30%
 (Multiple Assignments throughout the semester with varying point totals)
Final Project – 10%
Shop Work – 10%
Class Participation – 5%

Grading Scale

	89-87: B+	79-77: C+	70-60: D
100-93: A	86-83: B	76-73: C	59-0: F
92-90: A-	82-80: B-	72-70: C-	

Students can expect a grade of “C” for meeting the requirements stated in this syllabus. To earn above a “C”, students must demonstrate above average (“B”) or outstanding (“A”) performance.

Course Requirements / Expectations

- 1.) **NO FOOD OR DRINK IN CLASS.** Exception for closed water bottles
- 2.) **NO CELL PHONES IN CLASS.** Please turn off all phones when entering class.
- 3.) **Exams** – Exams will cover information covered in that segment of the class. The Final Exam will cover mainly the last segment of the class but will also be comprehensive in nature.
- 4.) **Class Participation** - Students are expected to actively participate in each class and contribute to the overall class experience. Your class participation grade will be determined by *active* and *pertinent* participation in class. Attendance alone does not constitute full credit in this category. Instructor will evaluate your participation in each class on a plus or minus category following each class.
- 5.) **Assignments** – Assignments are to be turned in on time. **Written work will not be accepted late without prior arrangements with the instructor.** All written work will be collected at the beginning of the class during which it is due. “Late” is defined as any moment after the material has been collected in class. If it is your intention to email any assignment (which is always a good plan), that email must carry a time stamp identifying the message as being sent before the class period in which it is due. If you are ill or have a medical emergency, you will not receive a “0” if you provide a doctor’s written excuse.
- 6.) **Exams** – Exams **MUST** be taken on the date and time scheduled in class. No makeups will be allowed.
- 7.) **Final project** – The final project will be a compilation of all topics studied throughout the course. More detailed information will be included when the assignment is distributed.
- 8.) **Production Attendance** – The faculty of the Department of Music and Theatre agree that attendance at our program productions and performances is one of the more valuable educational experiences offered by our school. As students in this class, you are required to attend *Godspell* (October 17-19 & 24-25) and *Black Fly Spring* (December 4-7), both in Gallagher Student Center Theatre.
 - a. You are also encouraged to attend a music concert and an art exhibition during the semester.
 - b. A 1-2 page written analysis of the show will be required. Your ticket stub must be attached to this paper. **Without a ticket stub, the paper will not be graded.** More details regarding the paper will be disseminated later in the semester.
 - c. Tickets can be purchased at <http://www.xavier.edu/theatre> or at the Music and Theatre Department Box Office.
 - d. **A SOLD OUT SHOW IS NO EXCUSE FOR NOT ATTENDING THE PLAY. Please buy tickets in advance.**
- 9.) **Shop Work** – Each student is **required to work a minimum of 17 hours** through the course of the semester. The XU Theatre shop’s hours are 12pm-6pm, Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Times in the shop must be documented and signed off by the instructor. See the attached timesheet. All hours **must be completed by November 27**. 6 hours **must be completed by October 10**. All students must attend **strike for Godspell on Sunday October 26 at 1:00 pm**, and will count for 5 of the 17 required hours.

A student may also choose to work on crew for a production in the place of shop hours. See the attached timesheet for important dates for productions. Working crew is on a first-come/first-served basis.

- 10.) **Missed Classes** - Stagecraft is learned mainly from hands-on participation in class. Therefore, class attendance is required. **More than two unexcused absences** will result in the loss of 3% points from your final grade. For each additional class missed, an additional loss of 2% points will occur. If problems do occur (ie sickness, family problems, etc) please contact me so we can make arrangements. This attendance policy is separate from your class participation grade.

Academic Honesty

The pursuit of truth demands high standards of personal honest. Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated at Xavier University. These include theft, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance in assignments and tests, unauthorized copying of computer software, the falsification of results and material submitted in reports or admission and registration documents, and the falsification of any academic record including letters of recommendation. (2008-10 Xavier Catalogue, page 54.) See catalogue for full statement on academic honesty.

Learning Assistance Center

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the Learning Assistance Center at 513-745-3280 on the Fifth Floor of the Conaton Learning Commons, Room 514, to coordinate reasonable accommodations.

Course Text

Required Readings

Most required readings for THTR 150 will be posted to blackboard. Students are expected to print out these handouts and review/read handouts prior to class.

NOT required but both offer good overviews of Technical Theatre

Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup by J. Michael Gillette (4th Edition)

This book provides a comprehensive look at the entire process from design to execution of design for the stage.

The Backstage Handbook by Paul Carter

This book contains numerous useful pictures, safe working loads, technical specifications and works great as a reference guide for almost anything relating to technical theater.

Curriculum Fulfillment - This course fulfills the following in the Core Curriculum

- Students will organize and express their ideas in writing and orally
- Students will analyze and interpret texts, images, objects, artifacts, and quantitative and qualitative data
- Students will evaluate the use of science and mathematics in society and everyday life in an informed manner
- Students will create, perform, and produce work that synthesizes technical execution and expressively communicates to its audience
- Students will recognize and interpret artistic and literary expression

• Class Schedule (subject to change)

August 26	Introduction to the class / Tour / Review Syllabus
August 28	The stage and its equipment – general stage terminology The Relationship of designer & technician
September 2	Design Discussion – Tour of Campus from a design aspect <i>Assignment #1 Distributed</i>
September 4	Design Discussion (continued) <i>Read “All in the Timing”</i>
September 9	History of Theatre Technology <i>Assignment #1 Due</i>
September 11	History of Theatre Technology (continued) Review for Exam One
September 16	EXAM ONE
September 18	Hand & Power Tools
September 23	Fasteners and Materials
September 25	Introduction to Drafting – Using Scale
September 30	Drafting (Continued)
October 2	Constructing a Flat
October 7	Constructing a Flat (Continued)
October 9	NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
October 14	Discussion of <i>Godspell</i> Set
October 16	EXAM TWO
October 21	Drafting
October 23	Drafting (continued)
October 28	Counterweight Systems
October 30	Counterweight Systems (continued) / Knots & Rigging Scenery
November 4	Knots & Rigging Scenery (continued)
November 6	Review for Exam
November 11	EXAM THREE
November 13	Drafting <i>Final Project Distributed</i>
November 18	Drafting
November 20	Drafting - Orthographic Projection
November 25	Scene Painting
November 27	NO CLASS THANKSGIVING
December 2	Stage Management
December 4	Sound
December 9	Lighting
December 11	TBD
December 16, 2014 – 10:30 am - 12:20 pm	FINAL EXAM <i>Final Project Due</i>

