

## **Stagecraft I (Scenery & Properties) TA-1310** **Spring 2019**

*Monday/Wednesday: 12:00pm – 2:30pm*

*Location: TA139/TA124*

Instructor: Prof. Daniel Czepinski

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Office hours: By appointment only (Suggested time: Mon./Wed. 9am – 12pm)

### Course Objective

- Co-requisite: TA 1301. Technical theatre practices developed in lectures, demonstrations, and workshop experience that provide students with a basic understanding and hands-on exploration of the art, materials, technical aspects, and conventions used to design and construct theatrical scenery and properties. Additional hours required.

### Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will know basic tool safety and techniques of stage scenery construction and handling.
- Students will be able to assist with basic scenery construction.
- Students will be able to assist with basic scenic painting.
- Students will be able to research properties for a period production.
- Students will know fundamentals of technical theatre drawings, procedures and organization, including how to read a ground plan.
- Students will demonstrate knowledge of stage hardware
- Students will create a compositionally strong photo journal that exemplifies the elements and principles of design as it relates to stagecraft.
- Students will develop a portfolio of material pertinent to the art of stagecraft.

### Text and Materials:

- Personal protective equipment for eyes & ears (PPE) and proper attire for theater shop days.
- Drafting supplies (inc. architectural scale ruler, 30-60-90 & 45-90-45 degree triangles, Vellum)
- Required Text: Gillette, J. Michael, Theatrical Design and Production, 7<sup>th</sup> Ed.
- Required Text: Carter, Paul and George Chiang, The Backstage Handbook, 3rd Ed.
- Required Applications: Dropbox and Trello
- Art supplies as determined by each project.
- Recommended Text: Raoul, Bill and Mike Monsos, Stock Scenery Construction Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed.

### Theater Etiquette/Shop Days:

- On days when we work in the theater or the shop, proper attire must be worn. This includes NO open-toed shoes, heels, sandals, or loose clothing/jewelry. Long hair must be tied back and pants are suggested. If proper safety attire is not worn, the student may be sent away and marked absent from class. Safe theater practices must be followed at all times.

### Class Emails/Dropbox/Trello:

- Everyone will be expected to use email and have Internet access regularly.
- Everyone will be required to sign up and use Dropbox for online sharing of class documents. It is free and simple to use. It is a standard tool used by most professional theater companies across the country. If you need assistance, please ask the instructor.
- Everyone will be required to sign up and use Trello for class updates/changes and other task related communications. If you need assistance, please ask the instructor.

### ADA Policy:

- The University provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented physical and learning disabilities. Faculty members fully support the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will provide reasonable accommodation to any student with a disability who is registered with the Office of Students with Disabilities (OSD) and needs and requests accommodation. OSD may be contacted to verify the presence of a disability and to confirm that accommodation is necessary.

The Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), located in Student Affairs Room 115 coordinates all documentation of disabilities. (323-343-3140) <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/osd/>

Deadlines:

- Deadlines for exams, papers and projects will **NOT** be extended; late work will be graded down by **1 letter grade** for each day it is late.

Important Dates:

W-M: 1/30 – 2/4	Tool Safety Check Dates
W: 3/13	Midterm Examination
M-W: 4/1 – 4/3	No Class – Spring Break
M: 5/13	Final Examination (Written)
W: 5/15	Final Examination (Project)

Course Requirements:

- *Grading will be as follows:*
  - Attendance & Participation (15%)
  - Class Projects (25%)
  - Midterm Exam (15%)
  - Class Portfolio (10%)
  - Photo Journal (10%)
  - Final Exam (25%)

Projects & Exams:

- You will have two exams (1 Midterm, 1 Final) and a culmination of multiple projects throughout the semester. Your attendance on scheduled exam dates and project due dates is essential to success. There will be no make-up exams permitted without an excused absence in writing from the professor.
- *Grades for Exams and Projects will be assigned as follows:*

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

Class Portfolio & Photo Journal:

- All students are required to create, maintain and submit a class portfolio and photo journal by the date of the scheduled final examination (5/13/19).
- Specific requirements regarding the content of the portfolio and photo journal will be given by the instructor in advance of the due date.
- Students will be graded on the organization, content and final presentation upon submission.
- It is critical that all students ensure the safe keeping of their portfolio and photo journal. Each student takes full responsibility for his/her material. Lost or stolen material will not extend the date of submission and could have an adverse effect on your final grade.
- Grading for the portfolio and photo journal will be treated and assigned the same as all projects.

Shop Hours:

- If you are enrolled in this class then you are also enrolled in the lab/shop section for it as well (Co-requisite: TA-1300-01). As part of your training, TA-1300 requires you to complete **30** shop hours that are specifically dedicated to scenic/properties construction and recorded on a timecard.
- Make sure you have these hours signed off by one of your instructors on a shop timecard.
- Make sure hours are completed by the day of the final examination (5/13/19).

### Projects:

- All projects are individually assigned unless otherwise specified.
- All projects are to be completed outside of the normally scheduled class time unless otherwise noted.
- All projects being completed in the shop must have the approval/supervision of department faculty and/or staff.
- Time used on class projects does NOT count towards your required TA-1300-01 lab hours unless given prior approval in writing by the Professor.
- It is the students responsibility to ensure that all projects are properly documented for submission in your class portfolio

### Attendance & Participation:

- *Grades for attendance will be assigned as follows:*

A = no missed classes	B- = 3 missed classes	D = 6 missed classes
A- = 1 missed class	C = 4 missed classes	D- = 7 missed classes
B = 2 missed classes	C- = 5 missed classes	F = 8+ missed classes

- Roll will be taken at the **top of class**. Latecomers will be marked LATE. Every TWO LATES MAKES AN ABSENCE.
- Documentation will be REQUIRED to excuse a missed class, no exceptions.
- No cell phones are permitted in class unless otherwise approved for class purposes.
- Some classes require group work and class collaboration. All students are expected to participate in theater hands-on activities and group projects.

### Course Outline:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
Wed – 1/23 (State Playhouse)	1	<i>Class Introduction, Goals, Dropbox, Trello &amp; Top Hat</i> Measuring Tape Assessment Theatre 101: Terminology & Backstage Basics Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Est. Dropbox, Trello & Top Hat Accts. and Acquire PPE Write 1-2 page Personal Introduction Begin Photo Journal (ART)
Mon – 1/28	2	<i>Production Organization &amp; Management</i> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapters 1-4 Assigned Project: “Who is Who in Production?” (D.A.R.E) DUE: Assigned Project – Dropbox – Top Hat Accounts/Bring PPE & Intro. DUE: Photo Journal (ART)
Wed – 1/30	2	<b>Tool Safety Check - Session 1:</b> Proper Shop Attire and PPE Required Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 9 Assigned Project: Tool Use Certification (In Class)
Mon – 2/4	3	<b>Tool Safety Check - Session 2:</b> Proper Shop Attire and PPE Required Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 10 (p.188–215 “Manufactured Wood”) Assigned Project: Tool Use Certification (In Class) DUE: Photo Journal (LINE)
Wed – 2/6	3	<i>How to Read a Tape Measure</i> (Lecture/Demo) “Who is Who” Presentations Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 10 (p.215-228) Assigned Project: Tape Measure Handout (In Class) DUE: Project - Presentations on “Who is Who in Production?” (D.A.R.E)
Mon – 2/11	4	<i>Scene Shop Tools &amp; Materials</i> (Lecture/Demo) “Who is Who” Presentations (continued) Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 10 (p.229-236) Assigned Project: Tool Application – Build a Bird House DUE: Photo Journal (SHADOW)
Wed – 2/13	4	<i>Scene Shop Tools &amp; Materials</i> (Continued)

		Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Tool Application – Build a Bird House (continued)
Mon – 2/18	5	<i>Properties</i> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 13 (p. 317-329) Assigned Project: Junk Drawer Prop Project DUE: Tool Application – Build a Bird House DUE: Photo Journal (TEXTURE)
Wed – 2/20	5	<i>Properties</i> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 13 (p. 330-343) Assigned Project: Junk Drawer Prop Project (continued)
Mon – 2/25	6	<i>Properties</i> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 7 (p.115-134) Assigned Project: Junk Drawer Prop Project (continued) DUE: Photo Journal (REPETITION/PATTERN)
Wed – 2/27	6	<i>Understanding the Basics of Technical Drawing/Scale</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Project: Found Space Exploration DUE: Junk Drawer Prop Project
Mon – 3/4	7	<i>Understanding the Basics of Technical Drawing/Scale</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Project: Found Space Exploration (continued) DUE: Photo Journal (SHAPE)
Wed – 3/6	7	<i>Understanding the Basics of Technical Drawing/Scale</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Project: Found Space Exploration (continued) DUE: Found Space “As-Is” Draft
Mon – 3/11	8	<i>Stage Hardware &amp; Midterm Review</i> (Lecture/Demo) DUE: Found Space Exploration DUE: Photo Journal (SCALE/PROPORTION)
Wed – 3/13	8	<b>MIDTERM EXAMINATION</b> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 11 (p. 237-256) Assigned Project: None
Mon – 3/18	9	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Standard/Specialty Joints</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 11 (p. 257-273), Carter (p.127-130) Activity: “This to That” – Wood Joint Identification Game DUE: Photo Journal (LIGHT)
Wed – 3/20	9	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Standard/Specialty Joints</i> (Continued) Assigned Reading: None Activity: “This to That” – Wood Joint Project
Mon – 3/25	10	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Standard Flat Construction</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 11 (p. 274-285) Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 1 – Construct a Flat DUE: Photo Journal (COLOR)
Wed – 3/27	10	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Standard Flat Construction</i> (continued) Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 1 – Construct a Flat (continued)
Mon – 4/1	11	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Wed – 4/3	11	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>
Mon – 4/8	12	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Theatrical Platform Construction</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Reading: TBD Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 2 – Construct a Platform DUE: Construct a Flat DUE: Photo Journal (CONTRAST)
Wed – 4/10	12	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Theatrical Platform Construction</i> (continued) Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 2 – Construct a Platform (continued)
Mon – 4/15	13	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Finishing Touches</i>

		Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 3 – Assembly, Trim-out, Load-in DUE: Photo Journal (FORM)
Wed – 4/17	13	<i>Introduction to Woodworking: Finishing Touches</i> (continued) Assigned Reading: None Assigned Project: Stock Scenery Part 3 – (continued) DUE (end of class): Stock Scenery Parts 1-3
Mon – 4/22	14	<i>Introduction to Theatrical Rigging</i> (Lecture/Demo) Assigned Reading: Gillette –Review Chapter 4 (p.58-65) DUE: Stock Scenery Assembly DUE: Photo Journal (SPACE – positive or negative)
Wed – 4/24	14	<i>Introduction to Theatrical Rigging</i> (continued) Assigned Reading: Familiarize – Carter (p.47-107) Assigned Project: Rig a Theatrical Flat (in class)
Mon – 4/29	15	<i>Review: Name that Hardware</i> Assigned Reading: Gillette – Chapter 12 (p.286-314) DUE: Photo Journal (EMPHASIS)
Wed – 5/1	15	<i>Scenic Painting and Treatments</i> Assigned Project: Sculpting Nature (Final Project)
Mon – 5/6	16	<b>Final Exam Preparation: Study Day/No Class</b> DUE: Photo Journal (BALANCE)
Wed – 5/8	16	<b>Final Day of Instruction: Final Exam Review</b> DUE: Sculpting Nature (Final Project)
Mon – 5/13	17	<b>FINAL EXAM WEEK – Written Final Examination</b> <b>* Photo Journal and TA-1300 Timecards Due*</b>
Wed – 5/15	17	<b>FINAL EXAM WEEK – Project: Attendance Mandatory</b> Assigned Project: End of the Semester Shop Clean-Up/Organization <b>*Class Portfolio Due*</b>
Sat – 5/25	18	<b>Fall Semester Ends</b>

\*The Syllabus is a living document. Professor reserves the right to modify syllabus.

“Art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it.” – Bertolt Brecht