



COURSE OUTLINE

Course Number
THR102

Course Title
Stagecraft

Credits
3

Hours:
2 Lecture/ 2 Lab

Pre-requisite
none

Implementation
Spring 2017

Catalog description:

An introduction to the skills and practice of technical theatre. Studies include elementary carpentry and set construction, scene painting, shop procedures, cost efficiency, safety, lighting, sound, and costume. Students work on college theatre productions. 2 lecture/2 laboratory hours

Is course New, Revised, or Modified? Modified

Required texts/other materials:

Theatrical Design and Production by J. Michael Gillette, 7th ed.

Revision date: Spring
2019

Course coordinator: Jody P. Gazenbeek-Person

Information resources: *Theatrical Design and Production* is not only a traditional introductory text, but also contains a color analysis section for the practical applications of color theory dealing with the interactive effects of color for scenery, lighting and costumes. There are safety tips throughout the text; there are design and production insights throughout the text, as well.

Other learning resources: Our library and the county system contain a collection of relevant books, videos, recordings, and electronic databases to supplement the students' learning. Other books on scenic techniques, rigging, lighting and costume construction techniques are incorporated into the lectures. (*Scenic Art for the Theatre* by Susan Crabtree and Peter Beudert; *Illustrated Theatre Production Guide* by John Holloway; *Designing With Light* by J. Michael Gillette; *Costume Technician's Handbook* are some of the many texts used.

Student Learning Outcomes/Course Goals:

The student will be able to:

- Understand basic design theory.
- Operate power tools correctly and safely.
- Identify the hardware, tools, materials and techniques needed to construct scenery.
- Construct basic scenic elements.
- Understand and apply basic scene painting techniques
- Understand the functions, and qualities of light.
- Differentiate various lighting instruments and know their properties.
- Hang and focus lighting instruments.
- Understand the basics of costume construction and be able to do basic hand and machine sewing.
- Understand the basics of theatre sound and sound reinforcement.
- Understand and use basic stage makeup.

Course-specific General Education Knowledge Goals and Core Skills.

General Education Knowledge Goals

Communication. Students will communicate effectively in both speech and writing.

Problem solving. Students will analyze designs and drawings to determine the best way to realize the final result.

History. Students will understand historical events and movements in World, Western, non-Western or American societies and how these events shape the way design and technology have evolved. Students will also see how history affects the design choices in costuming a play.

Diversity. Students will understand the importance of a global perspective and culturally diverse peoples and how different cultures affect scene and costume design.

Team Work. Students will learn to work together in teams to complete tasks.

MCCC Core Skills

Written and Oral Communication in English. Students will communicate effectively in speech and writing, and demonstrate proficiency in reading.

Critical Thinking and Problem-solving. Students will use critical thinking and problem solving skills in analyzing information.

Team Work. Students will learn to work together in teams to complete tasks.

Information Literacy. Students will recognize when information is needed and have the knowledge and skills to locate, evaluate, and effectively use information for college level work.

Intra-Cultural and Inter-Cultural Responsibility. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the responsibilities of intelligent citizenship in a diverse and pluralistic society, and will demonstrate cultural, global, and environmental awareness.

Units of study in detail.

Unit I: Physical Theatre and Design Process

The student will be able to

- Describe the physical architecture of various theaters; understand and use the terminology used to describe and work in the theatre.
- Describe the rigging of a theatre and the ways scenery is moved on and off stage.
- Analyze and understand a ground plan.
- Identify the design process:
 - Commitment to the project
 - Analysis of what is needed (read the play, discuss concepts, etc.)
 - Research the time period involved for architecture, sociological, and cultural background, and examine the psychological roots of the play and characters.
 - Incubation – how to let all the research, discussions and concepts sit so the mind can sift through all the information.
 - Select the solution that best fits the parameters of the design challenge.

- Implement the solution selected; draw up plans, estimate materials and cost, actually construct.
- Evaluate the result. Objectively look at final result and methods used to see if and how it might be done better.

Unit II: Tools and Shop Procedures

The student will be able to

- Identify, describe and properly and safely use hand tools.
- Identify and properly and safely use power tools (saws, drills, sewing machines, etc.).
- Create scale drawings using an architect scale rule.

Unit III: Scenic Construction, Painting, Properties

The student will be able to

- Analyze a scenic element (flat, platform, staircase, etc.) for proper construction methods.
- Determine the amount of lumber, hardware, and other materials needed to complete the project.
- Apply skills learned to actually construct a scenic element safely and as drawn.
- Prepare the item for painting (size coat, prime coat).
- Use various painting techniques to achieve the desired effects.
- Understand the categories of stage props and how to construct or obtain them.

Unit IV: Lighting Design

The student will be able to

- Understand the concepts of lighting design and color theory.
- Understand the functions and qualities of light.
- Understand the optic theory and physics involved in the design of the lighting instruments; how and why one instrument differs from another.
- Understand basic electricity.

Unit IV: Costume Design and Construction

The student will be able to

- Understand the concepts of costume design; why do we wear clothes and how we can use costume to tell an audience about the character.
- Identify basic silhouettes in period clothing.
- Perform basic hand sewing tasks – buttons, snaps, hems, etc.
- Thread and operate a sewing machine and construct a simple object.

Unit IV: Sound Design

The student will be able to

- Understand the concepts of sound design for theatre.
- Understand sound reinforcement needs.
- Identify the basic equipment used to create and implement sound for the theatre.

Unit V: Makeup

The student will be able to

- Understand the need and concept of makeup design.
- Apply basic stage makeup.
- Apply old age and various special effect makeups.
- Understand the safe application procedures of makeup.

Evaluation of student learning:

1. Assigned reading of texts and hand out materials.
2. Participation in classroom discussions.
3. Assessment of comprehension through participation in group projects.
4. Quizzes.

5. Written examination covering architecture, tools, design and scale drawing, scenic construction and painting techniques, safety rules, props, lighting instruments and design, the functions and qualities of light, historic costume silhouettes, sound, and makeup.
6. Practical demonstration and application of skills – using hand and power tools, sewing on buttons, knot tying, painting.
7. Working on construction or running crews for student productions.

Academic Integrity Statement: Students are expected to comply with the college-wide requirements for academic integrity. Mercer County Community College is committed to Academic Integrity—the honest, fair, and continuing pursuit of knowledge, free from fraud or deception. This implies that students are expected to be responsible for their own work. Presenting another individual's work as one's own and receiving excessive help from another individual will qualify as a violation of Academic Integrity. The entire policy on Academic Integrity is located in the Student handbook and is found on the college website (http://www.mccc.edu/admissions_policies_integrity.shtml).