

Syllabus: Technical Theatre, ENG 170/171

F19

Instructor: Gordon G. Rice

Credits: 4

Day & Time: Class- Monday, Wednesday, 9am-10:15 (regular attendance is expected)

Lab: 5-6 hours per week mandatory. Lab meets Tue, Thur, Fri; 9am-12pm & M-F; 1pm-4pm

Location: Todd 202F or Todd Theatre

Entrance Prerequisites: none

First Class: 08/28/19

Labs begin: 08/30/19

Course Description:

Introduction to the various types of theatres and Theatre Technicians.

Practical introduction to the theories and applications of construction techniques for the scenic environment; visual language, principals, safety and tools used in the creation of scenery and properties.

Practical introduction to the principals, applications, equipment and safety of Lighting and Sound technologies for the Theatre.

Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to Theatre Technology and the backstage environment.
2. To develop the necessary skills to safely operate a variety of woodworking tools.
- 3 To develop a basic understanding of materials and techniques used in scenic construction
4. To collaborate in the technical requirements of a theatre production.
5. To build the foundation for further exploration in Theatre Technology and the Arts.

Required Texts:

J. Michael Gillette, *Theatrical Design and Production*, McGrawHill, 6th edition (or 7th ed.)
isbn:978-0-07-351419-2 Price: \$90

Carter, Paul, *Backstage Handbook*, Broadway Press Price: \$25

Expectations and Requirements:

Regular / prompt attendance and active participation are essential components of this course.

- Students are expected to arrive on time to class and lab and be an active participant.
- Complete reading and written assignments as scheduled.
- Positive / enthusiastic attitude.
- Respect for the tools / equipment, theatre and fellow students.
- Attend a performance of each of this semester's URITP Theatre Productions.
- Attend at least 2 outside Arts Events. See attached document

Dress code:

- No sandals or open toed shoes. Sneakers or work boots required.
- Do not wear your favorite outfit.
- Long hair should be tied back.
- No Loose Clothing / Jewelry.

Lab Requirement:

There is a weekly Lab component to this course. You are required to complete 60 hours minimum for a passing grade. The balance of your grade will be based on your attendance, enthusiasm, attitude, perseverance, following the rules and working collaboratively with staff and students. This experience should be rewarding and enjoyable. **CELL PHONES ARE PROHIBITED DURING LABS**

Project:

Students will be assigned a project based on experience, interest and instructor approval, which may be an element of one of the Theatre productions presented during the semester.

Assessment:

Lab	50%
Active classroom participation	15% (if your late or absent – your not participating)
Tests / Quizzes	20%
Arts Attendance	15% (see attached <u>Arts Explorer Initiative</u>)

Lab Requirement: All Theatre Labs are “Hands-On” and Physically Active

This requirement should not be taken lightly. 5-6 hours /week mandatory. Only 3 absences will be forgiven. Students are responsible for logging their hours in the Lab Book before / after each lab session.

Each student is expected to work 5-6 hours per week. Lab grade will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance & Attitude 25%: **Attending lab as scheduled, not arriving late, not leaving early.** Making arrangements for alternative times prior to scheduled hours. Respect for others, tools and theatre.

Task Completion 25%: Positive, enthusiastic, supportive behavior goes a very long way!

Initiative 25%: Helpful, volunteering, not sitting around watching others work. Thinking ahead. Proactive.

Skill Application 25%: Safety First. Safety glasses and hearing protection is available, use them! Applying what you have learned. Maintain a clean, safe working environment. Clean up work area.

Lab Grade Rubric (50% of Final Grade):

- **20% = Weekly Lab**
- **50% = During the weeks of Load-In and Tech Rehearsals (25% each production)**
- **30% = Strike (15% each production)**

Performances:

Students are required to attend a performance for each production, typically 2. Write a brief reflection on the Technical Aspects of the production. Typed, double-spaced, Times 12 font. Please no more than 2 pages. This is a critique on how successful the technology (**lighting, sound, video, scenery**, props, costumes) was to supporting / enhancing the performance...or not. College level work will be expected.

Strike: The dismantling and/or storage of scenery, lighting, sound, props & costumes
Attendance is mandatory: 10/12-13 and 12/07-09. Precise times and schedule will be forthcoming.

Gordon Rice / Production Manager - Instructor

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Office Hours (Todd 205): Monday 1-3, Friday 10-12, By appointment preferred.

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Introduction to Technical Theatre

Content / Weekly Outline

+ **There will be unannounced quizzes during the semester based on the readings and class discussions**

No make-up quizzes.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter Readings</u>
Sept. 04-09	Theatre terms, Shop Safety / Rules, Measuring, Screw Gun	3,4 & 10
11-16	Measuring and Layout Tools. Production Team, Reading a Drafting	1,7&9
18-23	Lumber, Table Saw, Compound miter saw.	
25-30	Flats; Theatre & Hollywood	
	Band Saw, Drill Press, Battery Operated Circular saw& Saber Saw (jigsaw)	10,11 & 13
October 02	TBA	
07-09	Hand Tools; saw, hammers, clamps, chisels, etc	
21 - 23	Review and Midterm	
28-30	Platforming and Staging	
Nov. 04-06	Stairs	
11-13	Intro to Lighting	14, 15&16
18-20	Hang & Focus	21
25-27	Intro to Sound & System Set-up	
Dec. 02-04	TBA	
09-11	Review and Final	