
Introduction to Theatre Design

THT 222

CRN 90842 - Fall 2019

COURSE SYLLABUS

Professor: Patrick Mathis

Office: Tyler 125 E

Office Hours: 1:30 – 2:20 T TR | Or by appointment

Phone: 315-312-2165

Email: patrick.mathis@oswego.edu

Meeting Time: TR 2:20 – 3:40 P.M.

Location: Tyler Hall 102

I. Course Objective: The intent of this course is to introduce students to the basic principles of design, and the ways in which they are applied specifically in the facets of design for the theatre.

II. Semester Projects: Design is an expansive field and ultimately is best understood through firsthand experience and hands on work in the field. That said, it is exceptionally difficult to provide such a wide breadth of experiences without reducing the overall scale. As such a series of projects will be assigned throughout the semester to give students exposure to elements of design in each of the facets of technical theatre. A detailed description of the parameters for each project will be provided as it is assigned.

III. Show Critiques: You will be tasked with attending at least two productions throughout the semester. My suggestions would be the department shows. However, you are welcome to explore other options so long as they are cleared with me beforehand. Your critiques should be two to three typed pages in length and should examine the technical and artistic facets of the production with a focus on design.

V. Homework and Reading: As the course is heavily project based it is extremely important that you keep up with your assignments and come prepared for each class session. As it is impossible to present what does not exist for a peer review or build upon what has yet to be manifested late project work will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

VI. Design Journal:

Design is a phenomenological endeavor and a good design is born from any number of sometimes seemingly unrelated structures. To explore this, students are required to keep a design journal to record their ideas about design concepts, solutions to design problems, and or other design related concepts. At the start of each class I will provide a prompt, primarily based upon readings from “Time Flies”, and a brief period in which students will be allowed to freely explore the assigned prompt in their journals.

VII. Sketch Book:

Drawing is a skill that is developed with practice. In any theatrical discipline a good collaborator and creative thinker will be aided if they can clearly portray an idea on paper. In addition to completing any drawings which we work on in class, each student will be responsible for 2 additional sketches per week.

VIII. Required Texts:

Theatrical Design and Production by J. Michael Gillette (ANY EDITION)

“Time Flies” and Other Short Plays by David Ives

*Antigone** by Sophocles

*Peter Pan** the play by J.M. Barrie

*provided on Blackboard

IX. Class Supplies:

Foam core (For model boxes)

White card stock (For white model)

Sketchbook

Assorted pencils or led holder

Scale rule

IX. Final Exam:

The final exam for this course will consist of a fully developed design which you will present and defend, providing rationale for your decision with support from the text. The presentation must include all research, rough concepts, and a complete model or rendering. The final exam date is Tuesday **December the tenth at 2:00- 4:00 P.M., and it will be held in the design classroom.**

Point System:

Design Concept Presentation	100pts
Peter Pan Research	100pts
Peter Pan Costume Design	100pts
Antigone Scenic Design	100pts
Antigone Lighting Design	100pts
Show critique 1	75pts
Show Critique 2	75pts
Journal	150pts
Quizzes	400pts
Sketchbook	400pts
Midterm	300pts
Final	400pts

Total 2300pts

A- 2300-2200

B- 2199-2000

C- 1999-1900

D- 1899-1800

E- 1799-1700

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance:

Attendance is a vital part of this course and as such unexcused absences will not be permitted. Students are allowed a total of four absences for the semester. Use these wisely as a full letter grade will be deducted for each absence after the third.

Tardiness:

We've got a long way to go and a short time to get there. Tardiness takes precious moments from your design process, and time lost at the beginning cannot be made up at the end. You may be tardy three times without repercussion. After the third tardy any successive late coming will count as a full absence and may drop your grade. See above attendance policy for more details.

Late Submissions:

Assignments submitted after the due date will receive a score of zero.

Students with Disabilities:

Reasonable accommodation will be provided for all persons with disabilities in order to ensure equal participation within the program. If you have a disabling condition, which may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility Resource Services.

Intellectual Integrity Statement:

SUNY Oswego is committed to intellectual integrity. Any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and therefore prohibited. The full policy can be found at <http://www.oswego.edu/integrity>.

Sexual Harassment:

SUNY Oswego is committed to enhancing the safety and security of the campus for all its members. In support of this, faculty may be required to report their knowledge of certain crimes or harassment. Reportable incidents include harassment on the basis of sex or gender prohibited by Title IX and crimes covered by the Clery Act. For more information about Title IX protections, go to <https://www.oswego.edu/title-ix/> or contact the Title IX Coordinator, 405 Culkin Hall, 315-312-5604, titleix@oswego.edu. For more information about the Clery Act and campus reporting, go to the University Police annual report: <https://www.oswego.edu/police/annual-report>.

Please note this syllabus is subject to change at any point during the semester.