

**THEA 1330 Introduction to Production**  
**Fall 2017**  
**TR 9:30 – 10:50**  
**3 Credits**



**Instructor**  
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### **Course Description**

An overview of the elements of production to include an introduction to the basic components of theatre technology, stage scenery, stage lighting, theatrical costuming, stage management, theatre management, and script analysis. This course is designed to introduce the student to all areas of theatrical production. 3 credit hours

### **Course Description (cont'd)**

Introduction to Production provides students opportunities for developing their skills in the art of technical theatre production. As the course is designed as a foundation, it creates a solid basis for further study in all disciplines of theatre here at Sam Houston State University, not only in the area of production. The objective of this section is to acquaint students with the methods, practices, and materials used in scenic technology.

Your grade will be based on a composite of projects, quizzes, tests, and attendance.

You are held responsible for any handouts given during the semester. This includes but is not limited to PowerPoints on blackboard, project descriptions and rubrics, and other documents provided electronically or printed.

### **Course Objectives** *(as taken from the NAST standards and competencies)*

By the end of the course the student will possess the:

- Ability to demonstrate an understanding of basic engineering principles (electrical, mechanical, and/or structural) as they relate to chosen design specializations.
- Knowledge of federal, state, and local health and safety codes, best practices, and industry standards as they relate to theatrical venues and production elements.
- A have a working knowledge of tools and equipment common to the theatre

### Required Text and Materials

- Backstage Handbook. Carter, Paul
- Safety Glasses
  - o These can be found at Home Depot, Ace Hardware, and Wal-Mart
- Hearing Protection
  - o These are optional, but suggested for anyone who might be concerned about the decibel level of the tools we will be using.
- Rope or String
  - o Minimum 3/8" in diameter and 8'-0" length

### Grading Breakdown:

Final letter grades are based on the following percentages:

A+ = 100 - 96%	A = 95 - 93%	A- = 92-90%
B+ = 89 - 87%	B = 86 - 83%	B- = 82-80%
C+ = 79 - 77%	C = 76 - 73%	C- = 72-70%
D = 69 - 60%		
F = 50% or lower		

Preparation and Participation	100	
Tools Lab	50	
In class Quizzes and Assignments	50	(2x25 pts)
Scavenger Hunt	50	
Midterm	100	
Drafting Project	50	
Flat Project	100	
Paint Project	100	
Properties Project	100	
Production Responses	100	(4x25 pts)
Final Exam	<u>200</u>	
Total	1000 points	

### Evaluation of Course Projects & Factors Considered in Course Grading

Theatre is a collaborative art. Due to the nature of this class, it is important that each student participate in class discussions. As a university community where the exchange of ideas is vital, expressing your ideas is essential and all should support each other in creating this safe environment. You will be evaluated on several factors: getting along with colleagues, attitude, and initiative in the laboratory, punctuality and participation in class and in laboratory. Your lab work will be individually evaluated on how well you incorporate classroom material into the laboratory, on commitment to help "get the job done", and on your growth throughout the semester.

## Grading Policy

Assignments are due on the date assigned in class. The assignment grade drop a full letter if submitted by 5:00pm on the day originally assigned and a subsequent letter grade every subsequent class meeting. A grading rubric will be provided for each assignment as it is given in class.

## Attendance Policy

Attendance in this class should be taken very seriously. More than three absences, cumulatively throughout the semester, will result in your FINAL grade being lowered a full letter for every absence over the permitted threshold. In this section each tardy, defined as arriving after you name has been called, counts as ½ of an absence.

## Scenic Studio Rules

- If you are not “prepared” to work you will be asked to leave, forfeiting the lab hours for that day. This is at the discretion of the instructor.
- You must come to lab dressed in work clothes including closed toe and closed heel shoes (dance shoes and “ballet flats” are NOT acceptable).
- Long hair must tied back and out of the way.
- **EYE PROTECTION MUST ALWAYS BE WORN WHENEVER OPERATING or WORKING NEAR POWER TOOLS.**
- Earphones and listening devices of any kind (other than approved ear protection) will not be permitted in the scenic shop
- Under no circumstances will individuals who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs be permitted to work in the scene shop, on stage, or in any other production area. If you arrive to class, lab, or rehearsals under the influence, you will fail that day’s lesson.

**COURSE SCHEDULE:** *Instructor reserves the right to alter or change this schedule as necessary to best suit the course and implementation of course objectives.*

Week One \_\_\_\_\_

<i>August</i>	24	R	Introduction to Course and “I Wills...” OSHA, Shop Safety
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Week Two \_\_\_\_\_

	29	T	Hand tools	<i>Safety Quiz</i>
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	31	R	>>>Power Tools<<<	
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Week Three \_\_\_\_\_

<i>September</i>	5	T	Two-Dimensional Scenery	<i>Tool Quiz</i>
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	7	R	Fasteners and Building Materials	
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.Week Four				
	12	T	>>> LAB DAY: Building a Flat<<<	GROUP A
	14	R	>>> LAB DAY: Building a Flat<<<	GROUP A
Week Five				
	19	T	>>> LAB DAY: Building a Flat<<<	GROUP B
	21	R	>>> LAB DAY: Building a Flat<<<	GROUP B
Week Six				
	26	T	Cut Lists Cont'd	Scavenger Hunt Due
			*** SILENT SKY OPEN Sept 27-30 ***	
	28	R	Platforms and Weight, Legs and Stairs	
Week Seven				
October	3	T	Rigging Knots	
	5	R	Rigging and Mechanical Advantage	Knots Quiz
Week Eight				
	10	T	Fly Systems	
			*** GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OPENS Oct 11-14 ***	
	12	R	Theatre Architecture	
Week Nine				
	17	T	MIDTERM EXAM	
	19	R	Drafting	
Week Ten				
	24	T	Drafting In Class Assignment	
	26	R	Props	Drafting project Due
Week Eleven				
	31	T	Props	
November	2	R	Scenic Treatments	Prop project Due
Week Twelve				
	7	T	PAINT DEMO	
	9	R	>>>PAINT SAMPLE<<<	Group A

Week Thirteen \_\_\_\_\_

14 T >>>PAINT SAMPLE<<< Group A

16 R >>>PAINT SAMPLE<<< Group B OKLAHOMA OPENS

Week Fourteen \_\_\_\_\_

21 T >>>PAINT SAMPLE<<< Group B

23 R THANKSGIVING BREAK \*\*\* NO CLASS\*\*\*

Week Fifteen \_\_\_\_\_

28 T Final Review

30 R \*\*\* FINAL REVIEW DAY – NO CLASS MEETING\*\*\*

Final Exam \_\_\_\_\_

December 7 R Final Exam 9:30-11:30am

## ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[Dean of Student's Office](#)

## STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: “a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20....” A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be

penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

### **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY (cont'd):**

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

[/dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf](http://dept/academic-affairs/documents/aps/students/861001.pdf)

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance should register with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Lee Drain Annex (telephone 936-294-3512, TDD 936-294-3786, and e-mail [disability@shsu.edu](mailto:disability@shsu.edu)). They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Services for Students with Disabilities. For a complete listing of the university policy, see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/7ff819c3-39f3-491d-b688-db5a330ced92.pdf>

## **VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

## **INCLUSIVITY:**

Every student in this classroom, regardless of background or identity categories, is a valued member of this group. We all come from different experiences, but no one experience has more value or import than another. I encourage every student to share her own experiences as they are relevant to the course, but I also stress that no student in this course is ever presumed to speak for anything more than her own experience or point of view.

Furthermore, in this classroom, you have the right to determine your own identity. You have the right to be called by whatever name you wish, and for that name to be pronounced correctly. You have the right to be referred to by whatever pronoun you wish. You have the right to adjust those things at any point in your education.

If there are aspects of the instruction of this course that result in barriers to your inclusion or a sense of alienation from course content, please contact me privately without fear of reprisal.

## Syllabus Agreement

### THEA 1330: INTRO TO SCENIC TECHNOLOGY

Please initial next to each statement to signify your understanding and agreement to comply with each item. By enrolling and remaining in this course you agree to abide by all the assignments, directives, and policies listed in this syllabus and you acknowledge the following:

Initials	Statements
	If you do not understand something that is being covered in the class, you will take the initiative to contact the instructor for further clarification. He is more than happy to help you!
	Many of your course assignments will require your presence in class, therefore if you are not present on your assigned day, barring unforeseeable circumstances you may forfeit these points
	Our class attendance policy states you may have three absences. There will be no distinction drawn between excused and unexcused absences. A tardy will count as $\frac{1}{2}$ an absence. Any absence after that will result in a full letter grade reduction in your final grade.
	You have read the <i>Academic Dishonesty</i> policy and you will not engage in any form of academic dishonesty in this course including plagiarism; knowing the full consequences if you do.
	Instructor reserves the right to make any modifications to this syllabus as circumstances dictate to facilitate the instruction of this course.

**By signing below, I agree that:**

I have read and agree to abide by the terms and policies outlined in the syllabus and take responsibility for my learning and success in this course.

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*Student Name (Printed)*

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*Student Signature*

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*Date*