

# 3701

THEA 3701:  
SCENIC  
DESIGN  
FALL 2025

TUES/ THURS  
2PM- 4:20 PM



Death of a Salesman Sketch, Joe Melliziner

## COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

### FROM THE COURSE CATALOGUE:

"Design principles applied to theatrical scenery and properties; drafting of ground plans and sections, rendering and model building, theoretical application on many different types of theatrical productions including drama, musicals, dance and opera."

### MORE ACCURATELY:

Exploration of theatrical scenic design techniques, genres, styles, venues and historical contexts. 2D, 3D and CAD visual communication techniques will be used in a variety of hands-on portfolio building projects.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

-Develop your skills in and understanding of scenic design.

-Create a perspective of historic as well as current trends in western theatre scenic design.

-Proficient and artful use of the space to best encapsulate the objectives of the production.

-Development of portfolio level work to aid in post graduate employment.

### Donna Marquet Instructor

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Office:RTFP 214  
x7977

hours:M 3-5 W 10-12  
or by appointment



Max Reinhardt

"Many people confuse imagination with ingenuity, with inventiveness. But imagination is not this thing at all.

It is the peculiar power of seeing with the eye of the mind. And it is the very essence of the theatre."

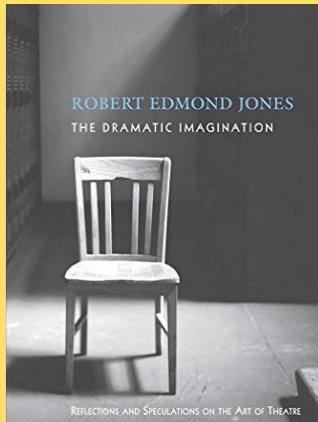
— Robert Edmond Jones, The Dramatic Imagination: Reflections and Speculations on the Art of the Theatre

# Texts

These scripts are available online and I have put their links on Canvas.

Although there may be several versions/ translation of a certain script be sure to ONLY use the one I have asked for since they were chosen for good reason and simplify communication.

Yes, I expect you to read ALL of the scripts.



## Class Supplies

Mutimedia Sketchbook-  
brought daily to class.

Internet access & Pinterest Board  
Various Pens & Pencils & Markers

Architectural Scale Ruler  
Metal straight edge  
X-acto Knife and blades (#11)  
Scissors  
Various Glues & Tapes-  
*Elmer's, Rubber Cement, Super Glue*  
Bristol Board- at least 11x17  
Watercolors & brushes  
Access to a color printer  
tracing paper

Throughout the semester you will need various project specific supplies including:

### Black & White Foamcore- week 2

Illustration Board  
Water based paints  
found objects  
Other model building materials  
As the design dictates

## the big scripts

### MEDEA

Euripides

### A(NON)YMOUS

Naomi Iizuka

### INTIMATE APPAREL

Lynn Nottage

## suggested Books

Making the Scene: A History of Stage Design & Technology in Europe & the United States  
-Brockett

Stage Design: A Practical Guide  
-Thorne

Theatrical Design & Production  
-Gillette

The Handbook of Model-Making for Set Designers  
-Winslow

The Dramatic Imagination  
-Jones

This is a scenic design class.  
That does not mean I think all of you will become scenic designers.

We will all be working on skills that are transferable to many career paths.

Large assignments will also be flexible in their outcome- We will be using the same source material but you will get to choose from two + projects to complete.

"Life is a theatre set in which there are but few practicable entrances."

— Victor Hugo,  
Les Misérables



Josef Svoboda

# Class Decorum

**Come to Class, be on time and respectful of others.**

For those who need specifics:

- You are paying for this class.
- You have come to college to challenge your thinking and improve your skills.
- Everyone else is too.

## Cellphones and other Electronics

Often we will be using our devices for research and reference. Please make sure they are silenced and only used in class as directed.

## Your Fellow Classmates

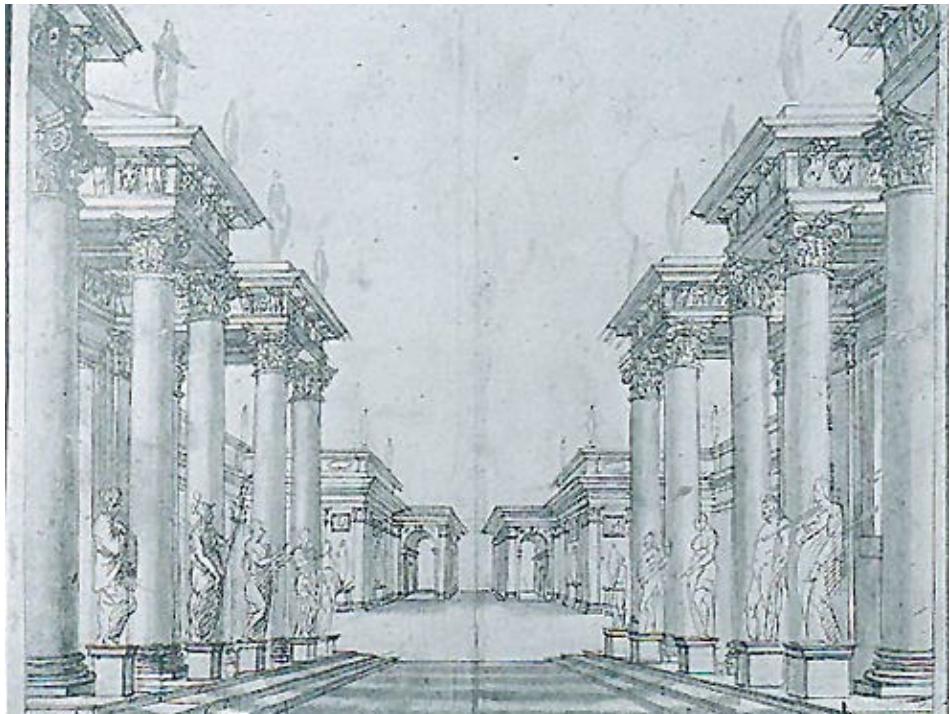
Be kind. Theatre is a collaborative art form and we will be working with one another and giving constructive critiques. Anything but the utmost respect and patience will not be tolerated.

## Be ready

This will be an intense class that will require daily work and not just night before cram sessions. Make a commitment to yourself and your mental and physical health that you will take this class as an opportunity to improve on your time management.

Come prepared with your supplies and with the reading completed. This will affect your participation and effort grade.

I will ask you to work/ design/ build during class time. You must have your supplies and the classroom is also open (check the schedule outside of the door) For you to work outside of class times.



Indigo Jones

## Grading Information

I have been reading Ungrading Blum ed. We will discuss how we will proceed with the use of grades in this class on the first day.

This will be a collaborative process that relies heavily on constructive feedback, critiques and self evaluation. This will ask a level of maturity and discipline that will challenge you (and me). We will also be revisiting this process throughout the semester as you are my guinea pigs but as the standard modern use of A-F is so incredibly problematic and the non-objective, punitive, simplistic nature of grades does not lead to growth or exploration I hope you will be ready with me to work on this semester towards knowledge and not an "A".

## 1000 vs. 3000

This class is a 3000 level course and will challenge you accordingly. For many of you scenic design is not your first passion but I would be remiss as an educator to not present the subject in a way that will best prepare you for a career in design.

In my 1000 level exploratory courses your effort counted for a great deal where as your skill, talent and prior knowledge would not hold you back. In a 3000 level course I need to assume that you have had the prior course work, experience and will be able to work at a pace and quality that can be marketable to the professional world.

This class will require several hours of outside work that you should allot for over several days. Pauses increase creativity vs. night before work.

Be prepared. Do it now. Eat healthy and exercise regularly. Intense project based what you will be doing for the rest of your life in theatre no matter your focus so start organizing your days accordingly.

## Class Calendar

Subject to change  
Updates will be made in class  
& posted on Blackboard

1\_\_\_\_\_

**8:19:** Introduction  
He Said, She Said

**8-21:** The Bear

2\_\_\_\_\_  
**8-26:** Model Building  
WarmUp & Box

**8-28:** Model Building  
Box & Song Project

3\_\_\_\_\_

**9-2:** DUE: MEDEA Paperwork,  
Research & Model Box

**9-4:** Mood Board Due  
Furniture Building Exercise

4\_\_\_\_\_  
**9-9:** Structure 101 & Medea

**9:11:** Structure 101& Medea

5\_\_\_\_\_  
**9-16:**Structure Challenge &  
Medea

**9-18:** Structure Challenge &  
Medea

6\_\_\_\_\_

**9-26:** Shooting Your Model &  
Stair Challenge

**9-28:** DUE: Medea Report &  
Presentation

7\_\_\_\_\_

**10-3:** Anan(ymous)

**10-5:** Storyboards 101 &  
Designing Multi Set Shows

8\_\_\_\_\_

**10-10:** Anon Research Due

(Oct 13 Anon First 6 scenes)

**10-12:** Anon Your Big Idea &  
Projections

9\_\_\_\_\_

**10-17:** DUE:Anon Roughs of  
Whole Show & Color Theory

**10-19:** Sketching

10\_\_\_\_\_

**10-24:** Storyboard &  
Presentation

**10-26:** Storyboard Finish Day

11\_\_\_\_\_

**10-31:** Design Challenge Day

**11-2:** Anon DUE

12\_\_\_\_\_

**11-7:**DUE:Read/ Report/  
Research Intimate Apparel

**11-8:** Working with a Director

13\_\_\_\_\_

**11-14:** Intimate Apparel

**11-16:** Continue Working

THANKSGIVING

14\_\_\_\_\_

**11-28:** Catch Up

**11-30:** Catch Up

15\_\_\_\_\_

**12-5:** Present I B

**12-7:** Present I A

We will NOT meet for the final  
but your Website will be due.