THEATRE 1700 *Theatrical Design I*

Fall 2026

Course Description:
"Introduction to a basic body of concepts and practices common to areas of theatre design and technology"

We will explore the four main areas of theatrical design (scenic, costume, lighting and sound) with a project based approach.



9:35am - 10:55 am Monday/Wednesday

RTFP Design Studio Room 137



Laura Berrios,
instructor

RTFP 215
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drop-in office hours:
W 1-4pm
or by appointment

Course Objectives

Students will obtain a broad understanding of the various disciplines within theatrical design deepening their appreciation and understanding of theatre.

Students will have a greater understanding of the collaboration between the disciplines and how best to navigate the design process.

Students will be able to understand and identify various elements of composition, color, form etc. intrinsic to all areas of design.

With the use of hands-on projects, group and individual work as well as research, students will develop a base level portfolio on which to build in subsequent classes.

Required Materials

TEXT:

MALLOY, KAOIME E. **THE ART OF THEATRICAL DESIGN, ELEMENTS OF VISUAL COMPOSITION METHODS AND PRACTICE**, Burlington, Focal Press 2015 or 2022

ISBN-13: 978-1138021501 OR 978-0367902117

Yes, you need to get this book.

There will also be several plays that will have links on the Canvas* site and are copyright free. If you feel like you need to print them so be it- otherwise save a tree and read them for free.

This course has a course fee which will be used to purchase other expendable art materials in bulk for your use.

ALWAYS BRING YOUR SKETCHBOOK AND PENCILS, MARKERS TO CLASS… THE REST… WELL, ITS NOT A BAD IDEA TO ALWAYS HAVE THEM IN CASE YOU FEEL THE NEED TO USE THEM BUT OTHERWISE I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN WE ARE GOING TO SPECIFICALLY USE THEM.

Side Notes:

There is an amazing MakerSpace at Willis Library. (Run by a Theatre Major.) Think about using some of their resources for this class.

You will have access to the MAC LAB in the DATH. Hours will be posted on our Canvas site. Please be respectful of this lab and use it for class work requiring it's design software- (i.e. not social media/ gaming etc…).

There are printers in the Design Studio. Use discretion and if they are abused they will go away. Expect to provide your own paper but you can use what is here.

Thistle Creative Re-use is a 2nd hand craft store here in Denton

SUPPLIES:

SKETCHBOOK- MULTIMEDIA (70LB-90LB PAPER) AT LEAST 8.5X11- PREFER 14X17 OR THE LIKE- 40 PAGES MINIMUM…. (BUY TWO- $8 EACH)

VARIOUS PENCILS AND PENS (INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE BLACK SHARPIE)

REGULAR ERASER

RUBBER CEMENT- IMPORTANT

DECENT PAPER SCISSORS

ACCESS TO A COLOR COPIER/ PRINTER

X-ACTO KNIFE #11 WITH BLADES AND METAL RULER AT LEAST 14"

SET OF COLORS
YOU CHOOSE STYLE

- 24 SET OF COLORED PENCILS
- 24 BOX OF CRAYONS
- 24 BOX OF MARKERS
- SET OF WATERCOLORS

ITEMS YOU MAY FIND HELPFUL

KNEADED ERASER

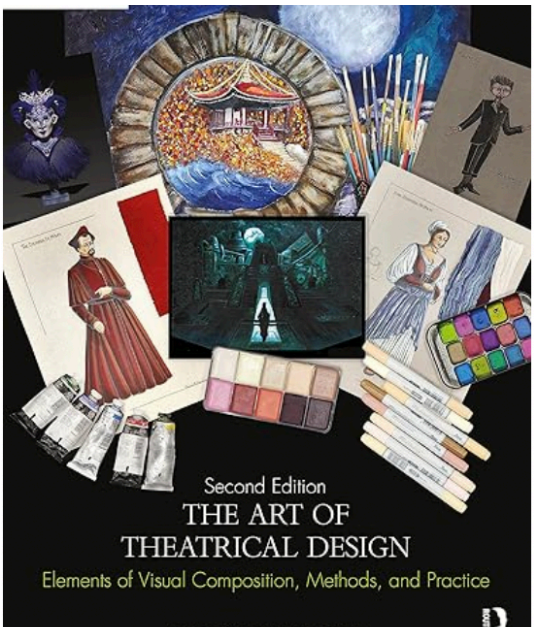
ELMER'S GLUE

TAPE- REGULAR CLEAR AND OR MASKING

PAPERCLIPS OR BINDER CLIPS OR RUBBER BANDS FOR EXTRA PAGES IN YOUR SKETCHBOOK(S)

ARCHITECTURAL SCALE RULER

SOME SORT OF CARRYING CASE FOR ALL YOUR SUPPLIES



Other Items:

We will also be constructing a 3-D collage book so get ready to hunt for interesting objects.

A glue gun could come in very handy here- perhaps share one with a buddy or get in good with the scene or costume shops.

All projects may require you to purchase more paint, paper, random supply but will be up to the individual design.

Any supply in the classroom not labeled is fair game for your use. Please be respectful of other's things.

The lockers in the back of class are for your use but bring in your own lock and they must be emptied by the end of the semester.

*also a good idea not to let anyone throw away any magazines with images you can pull from- feel free to bring them to the studio for all to cut up and use.

Attendance & Classroom Etiquette:

COME TO CLASS. BE ON TIME.

For those who need specifics:

- You have 200 points towards your final grade are Attendance after TWO unexcused absences 50 points will be removed for each subsequent absence.
- 3 lates (1-15 minutes late) will count as a one absence.
- If you are more than 15 minutes late you are considered absent.

- Excuses will only be accepted for the following reasons-

*In the event of death of a close relative or hospitalization of yourself. Documentation of either must be provided.

*Absences for observance of a religious holy day are excused. A student whose absence is excused to observe a religious holy day is allowed to contract with the instructor to take a make-up examination or complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

Please alert the instructor with ample time prior to the absence.

- Distractions will not be tolerated during class- please silence them.

- Be kind to all your fellow classmates. Theatre is a collaborative art form and we will be collaborating and giving constructive critiques in this classroom. Anything short of the utmost respect will not be tolerated.

- Be ready to take notes in your sketchbook at each class.

ASK QUESTIONS! THIS CLASS IS A DIALOGUE BETWEEN YOUNG MINDS WHO WANT TO LEARN AND AN OLD MIND TRYING TO FIT EVERY EXCITING THING THEY KNOW ABOUT THEATRE DESIGN INTO A CLASS THAT IS TOO SHORT TO COVER IT ALL.

LET'S TAKE TANGENTS AND DISCOVER NEW THINGS TOGETHER.



Attending Performances:

It is one thing to talk about design but it is another thing entirely to see it. You are required to see BOTH department shows this semester and turn in a brief paper about the show. (paper requirements are on Canvas & will be distributed closer to show date.)

All students enrolled in a theatre class get a FREE ticket to each show. Reserve your tickets early.

If you are in the show/ working the show all the better.

Les Liaisons Dangerous
10/1-10/4 University Theatre

Dracula
10/29- 11/1 Studio Theatre

You can also see an off campus/ dance or non departmental production (pre-approved) and write the same brief descriptive paper for **extra credit.**- Only 2 outside productions will count for extra credit and ONLY if you have also seen the on campus shows. 50 points for each max.

All classroom rules apply to shows that you see including punctuality and respect.

COURSELAYOUT

"READ"- TAKE NOTES, MAKE SKETCHES ON EVERYTHING YOU ARE ASKED TO READ. I WILL BE ASKING TO SEE YOUR NOTES/ SKETCHES FOR EACH AND EVERY CHAPTER THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER RANDOMLY. MAKE SURE THAT THE NOTES HAVE HEADINGS AND INCLUDE AT LEAST ONE SKETCH ON EACH PAGE OF NOTES. EACH PLAY WE READ WILL REQUIRE NOTES/ SKETCHES AS WELL.

"DUE"- THIS IS WHAT YOU SHOULD BE READY TO HANG/ TURN IN/ CRITIQUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS.

"CLASS"- THIS IS WHAT WE WILL BE DOING DURING CLASS.

1 *Aug 17*
Read: Chapter 1 *What is Theatrical Design?*
2 *Form, Content and Context*
Due:
Class: Meet & Greet, Syllabus & Chapter 1 & 2

Aug 19
Read: Chapter 3 *Genre*
4 *Style*
Due:
Class: Genre & Style Review

2 *Aug 24*
Read: Chapter 21 The Role of Critique
Due: Genre & Style ABCs
Class: Critique ABC's

Aug 26
Read: Chapter 5 *Dramatic Structure*
18 *Analysis*
19 *Conceptualization*
Due: NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #1
Class: Art Day in class

3 *Aug 31*
Read: *RIDERS TO THE SEA*
Due:
Class: Discuss, Design Process, Cornell

Sept 2
Read: *RIDERS TO THE SEA*
Chapter 20 The Design Process
Due:
Class: Research: **Meet at Willis Library, Room 130**

4 *Sept 7 Labor Day*

Sept 9
Read:
Due: *RIDERS TO THE SEA Research*
NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #2
Class: Design Work in Class/ Shop day

5 *Sept 14*
Read:
Due: *RIDERS TO THE SEA*
Class: Cornell Box Critique

Sept 16
Read: THE STEPMOTHER
Chapter 6 *Line*

Due: Bring all supplies
Class: Exploring Materials & Line work on THE STEP MOTHER

6 *Sept 21*
Read:
Due: THE STEPMOTHER
Class: Critique

Sept 23
Read: TRIFLES
Chapter 7 *Shape, Form Mass, Volume and Space*
8 *Value*
9 *Color*
10 *Texture*
Due: NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #3
Class: Explore Shape, Color, Value, Texture

7 *Sept 28 Les Liaisons Dangerous*
Read:
Due: TRIFLES

Class: Critique

Sept 30
Read: FOURTEEN
Chapter 12 *Unity and Variety*
13 *Balance*
14 *Repetition, Rhythm and Pattern*
Due: NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #4
Class: Explore Unity, Variety, Balance & Pattern

8 *Oct 5*
Read:
Due: FOURTEEN
Class: Critique

Oct 7
Read: Chapter 15 *Scale and Proportion*
16 *Emphasis and Subordination*
Due: Play Critique Due
NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #5
Class: Explore Scale & Emphasis & Read EVERY AFTERNOON

9 *Oct 12*
Read:
Due: EVERY AFTERNOON
Class: Critique

Oct 14
Read: A DOLLAR
Chapter 23 *Rendering*
Due: Costume Design Research
Class: Costume Design

10 *Oct 19*
Read:
Due: Costume Design Project
Class: Critique

Oct 21
Read: THE INTRUDER
Chapter 27 Scene Design
28 Properties Direction and Design
Due:
Scenic Design Research
Class: Scenic Design

11 *Oct 26* *Dracula*
Read:
Due: INTRUDERS
Class: Critique

Oct 28
Read: 365 PLAYS
Chapter 29 *Lighting Design*
Due: NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #7
Class: Lighting Design

12 *Nov 2*
Read:
Due: Lighting Design
Class: Lighting Design/ Final Project Assigned

Nov 4
Read:
Due: Play Critique Due
Class: Design Process- 2nd Draft

13 *Nov 9* *New Choreographers Concert*
Read:
Due: 2nd Draft Project
Class: 2nd Draft Critique

Nov 11
Read: Sound chapter
Due:
Class: Sound Design
Final Project Assigned

14 *Nov 16*
Read:
Due: Final Project Research in Area
Design Area of Final Chosen

Last Day to turn in any extra credit critiques

Class: Final Project Review

Nov 18
Read:
Due: Final Project concept
NOTEBOOK COLLECTION #8
Class: Final Project Work
Group Share
Week 15 meetings Chosen

THANKSGIVING BREAK

15 *Dec 30*
Read:
Due: Final Project Roughs due at Individual Meetings
Class: Final Project Work

Dec 2
Read:
Due: Final Project Roughs due at Individual Meetings
Class: Individual Meetings

WE WILL MEET DURING OUR SCHEDULED FINALS PERIOD. **MONDAY DEC.7TH 8:00AM-10:00AM**

COURSE LAYOUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. CHANGES WILL BE POSTED ON THE CANVAS SITE AS WELL AS MADE CLEAR IN CLASS.



MOST IMPORTANT POINT

You WILL be drawing/ painting/ cutting/ pasting and working with your hands to bring to life the images in your mind. You will be graded solely on your effort/ improvement and not on your ability to draw/ paint etc. I AM LOOKING FOR RISK AND GROWTH. I am fully aware that many of you do not have prior art class experience and imagination and creativity have been tested and drained out of you in your primary education. We are going to work to get you back to the freedom you had as a kindergartener... before you cared if each piece was a masterpiece, before there were absolute right or wrong answers, before exploring wasn't as important as the destination.



"Nighthawks" at the Kirk Douglas Theatre - Scenic Designed by Donna Marquet

Evaluation Procedures
aka the grades...

The goal of the class is 1000 points. (A=1000-950, B=949-850 C=849-750 D=749-700)

Point Breakdown-

Attendance & Participation= 200
Sketchbook= 80 (10 points each)
Performance Review(s)= 25, 25
In Class Play Responses = 25 (5 each)
ABC Project= 50
Cornell/ *Riders to the Sea* =50
Stepmother=50
Trifles=50
Fourteen = 75
Every Afternoon= 50
Costume Design Project= 75
Scenic Design Project= 70
Lighting Design Project= 25
Sound Design Project= 25
Second Draft Project=50
Final Project= 75

Online Submissions must be labeled and in PDF/JPEG/PNG format unless specified.

lastname_project-label.type
label = view, rough, character

Each Project has the possibility of 10 bonus points for going Above and Beyond (total of 110pts possible)

Links to an online database/drive will not be counted as a submissions and will receive 0 submission points.

Quiz/ Test Policy- If it is clear that the reading assignments are not being done there will be pop quizzes instituted until reading picks up. These points will come out of the presentation points on your project rubrics.

Late Work Policy- Since we will be critiquing the majority of work in class your assignments must be on time. If you are unable to have your work at the start of class it is due, the grade will drop 50% if turned in within 24 hours. After 24 hours it will not be accepted. This will be amended for excused absences.

Please understand that this policy allows me to continue to work at a high level outside of class to continue to improve the department. AND Deadlines in theatre are real.

If you have a pre excused absence, your project is still due at the due date. You will have 1 week to schedule your presentation past the deadline, at that point your project will be graded with a full loss of presentation points.

UNT Dance & Theatre Department You Are Entering a Safe and Affirming Environment

We in the Department of Dance and Theatre strive to maintain a safe and affirming environment at all times.

A safe and affirming environment is a place for you to learn, visualize, contemplate, affirm, solve problems, get advice, express yourself, relax, have fun, hang out, and communicate with others. We use the phrase "safe and affirming" because it seems to incorporate the qualities of preciousness, sanctity, retreat, safety and refuge.

In the Department of Dance & Theatre, absolutely no one—whether they are a peer, faculty member, or administrative staff—is allowed to threaten, scare or harm another. We have "zero tolerance" for behavior that diminishes and alienates.

If anyone does threaten, scare or harm you, then report the incident immediately. The reporting can occur through face-to-face disclosure to faculty members or administrative staff you trust. You can also report the incident in writing as in an email, or in an anonymous note. Each report will be handled and investigated with utmost care and confidentiality. Your feelings and concerns do matter and deserve full attention.

Keep in mind that you are not accusing anyone by reporting. You are simply reporting concerns about someone's conduct. In actuality, you are fulfilling your responsibility of keeping everyone safe. Also, keep in mind that no form of retaliation will be tolerated.

A safe and affirming environment is possible. It starts with respect and support, requires that we address the hurt and pain inflicted, and continues with efforts to remedy our mistakes going forward.

Department Policies

Instructors can drop students on the first day of class for being absent without prior arrangement.
Dance/ Theatre students are expected to budget and organize their time and efforts in order to meet both their academic and production commitments satisfactorily and on time. The faculty and staff recognize that the academic and production assignment within the Department as well ad outside employment and other obligations sometimes impose conflicting pressures on Dance/ Theatre students. One of the principal responsibilities of each student is to carefully identify and monitor the commitments that compromise of their departmental assignments and outside obligations. It is also important to keep in mind hat production work and outside obligations do not constitute an excused absence form any class or from the completion of any required class assignment.

To remain a theatre major and to graduate, students majoring in theatre must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 for all theatre courses.

The department does not allow students to obtain a D or below more than twice in a theatre course comprising the major. Once the student receives the second D or below in the same course, the student will be dismissed from the department.

ODA

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic Integrity Policy

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. [Insert specific sanction or academic penalty for specific academic integrity violation.

Course Safety Procedures

Students enrolled in THEA 1700 are required to use proper safety procedures and guidelines as outlined in UNT Policy 06.038 Safety in Instructional Activities. While working in laboratory sessions, students are expected and required to identify and use proper safety guidelines in all activities requiring lifting, climbing, walking on slippery surfaces, using equipment and tools, handling chemical solutions and hot and cold products. Students should be aware that the UNT is not liable for injuries incurred while students are participating in class activities. All students are encouraged to secure adequate insurance coverage in the event of accidental injury. Students who do not have insurance coverage should consider Standard Syllabus Statements Related Policy 06.049 Course Syllabi Requirements obtaining Student Health Insurance. Brochures for student insurance are available in the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center. Students who are injured during class activities may seek medical attention at the Student Health and Wellness Center at rates that are reduced compared to other medical facilities. If students have an insurance plan other than Student Health Insurance at UNT, they should be sure that the plan covers treatment at this facility. If students choose not to go to the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center, they may be transported to an emergency room at a local hospital. Students are responsible for expenses incurred there.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

Retention of Student Records

Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Acceptable Student Behavior

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

Access to Information - Eagle Connect

Students' access point for business and academic services at UNT is located at: my.unt.edu. All official communication from the University will be delivered to a student's Eagle Connect account. For more information, please visit the website that explains Eagle Connect and how to forward e-mail: eagleconnect.unt.edu/

Student Evaluation Administration

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The student evaluation of instruction is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. The survey will be made available during weeks 13, 14 and 15 of the long semesters to provide students with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught. Students will receive an email from "UNT SPOT Course Evaluations via IASystem Notification" (no-reply@iasystem.org) with the survey link. Students should look for the email in their UNT email inbox. Simply click on the link and complete the survey. Once students complete the survey they will receive a confirmation email that the survey has been submitted. For additional information, please visit the SPOT website at http://spot.unt.edu/ or email spot@unt.edu.

Sexual Assault Prevention

UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.