THEATRE 4146

**Stagecraft III – Technical Direction**

**Tuesday/Thursday 9:30 –11:50**

**Instructor Contact**

**Name: Matthew McKinney**

**Office Location: 213**

**Office Hours: by Appointment**

**Email: Matthew.McKinney@unt.edu**

**Course Description**

Exploration of the detailed work of the technical director/project manager in the creation of theatrical productions & event planning. Focus on project cost analysis, special problem solving, event planning and management, labor and transportation, production installs, & structural design.

**Course Objectives**

This course will continue the journey of the Technical Director. You will be tasked with finding creative solutions to complex problems. Subject matter will include:

* Cost Estimation & Tracking
* Vendors and materials
* Special problem solving
* Event planning and management
* Labor calculations
* Transportation issues
* Production load ins and strikes
* Mechanical and Structural design

Students will also act as assistant technical directors for department productions. In this capacity you will be working to solve technical problems on scenic units.

**Materials**

**Required Materials**

* *Computer – Laptop preferred to bring to class each day.*
* Access to spreadsheet program (Microsoft Excel or Google sheets)

**Recommended Text Books**

* *Backstage Handbook 4th Edition* by Paul Carter
* *Technical Design Solutions for Theatre Vol 1, 2, 3* by Ben Sammler
* *Tech Expo Catalog Vol. 2003 – 2019* (USITT Bookstore)

**Class Format**

* **Lecture**: The Monday, Wednesday class meetings are lecture format with some time

devoted to hands on training. Student participation in lecture, when asked, is encourage. Attending the lecture is expected. However, things do come up that may take priority, see the class participation section.

**Class Participation**

* Attendance and participation counts 150 Points towards your final grade
* After 2 unexcused absences 50 points will be removed for each subsequent absence
* 3 tardies (1-15 minutes late) will count as an absence
* If you are more than 15 minutes late you are considered absent

**Course Requirements**

* Attendance and Participation 150 Points
* Department Production Assignment
  + Assignment #1 50 Points
  + Assignment #2 50 Points
* Calls Assignments
  + Vendor research 50 Points
  + Cost Analysis project 50 Points
  + Special problem solving 50 Points
  + Bridge project 50 Points
  + Project management 50 Points
* Project conflict resolution
  + 7 project total (in class) 350 Points
* Final Project 150 Points
* TOTAL 1000 Points

**Grading**

* A = 900-1000
* B = 800-899
* C = 700-799
* D = 600-699
* F = 500-599

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

**Course Calendar**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Week # | Tuesday |  | Thursday |
|  | 8/19 |  | 8/21 |
| 1 | Class: Meet & Greet, Syllabus, Objectives, responsibilities |  | What is a Technical Director/Project Manager (His Story) |
|  | 8/26 |  | 8/29 |
| 2 | DUE:  CLASS: Lion stone in class project |  | DUE:  CLASS: Excel basics |
|  | 9/2 |  | 9/4 |
| 3 | CLASS: Vendors and materials,  Production Project A: questions, construction method, material |  | DUE: Excel: personal budget  CLASS: Production Project A Lab |
|  | 9/9 |  | 9/11 |
| 4 | DUE: Production Project A  CLASS: Cost Analysis – Material |  | CLASS: Cost Analysis – Lab (Blippi) |
|  | 9/16 |  | 9/18 |
| 5 | DUE:  CLASS: Conflict Session - Budget |  | DUE:  CLASS: Cost analysis review |
|  | 9/23 |  | 9/25 |
| 6 | DUE:  CLASS: Build/Buy/Borrow/Banish, Intro to labor |  | DUE: Cost Analysis - Blippi  CLASS: Intro to Logistics |
|  | 9/30 |  | 10/2 |
| 7 | DUE:  CLASS: Conflict session - Labor |  | DUE:  CLASS: Blippi Review – Open work lab |
|  | 10/7 |  | 10/9 |
| 8 | DUE:  CLASS: |  | DUE: Load in Plan - Anatomies  CLASS: |
|  | 10/14 |  | 10/16 |
| 9 | DUE:  CLASS: Conflict Session - Logistics |  | DUE:  CLASS: Production Expendables |
|  | 10/21 |  | 10/23 |
| 10 | DUE:  CLASS: |  | DUE:  CLASS: |
|  | 10/28 |  | 10/30 |
| 11 | DUE:  CLASS: Conflict Session - Other |  | DUE:  CLASS: Final Project - Intro |
|  | 11/4 |  | 11/6 |
| 12 | DUE: Final Project - List of questions & Unit List  CLASS: |  | DUE: Final Project – Labor Needs  CLASS: |
|  | 11/11 |  | 11/13 |
| 13 | DUE: Final project – Construction plan  CLASS: Final Project |  | DUE:  CLASS: Final Project |
|  | 11/18 |  | 11/20 |
| 14 | DUE:Final Project – Logistic Plan  CLASS: Final Project |  | DUE:  CLASS: Final Project (Floating Class) |
|  | 11/25 |  | 11/27 |
| TG | THANKSGIVING BREAK |  | THANKSGIVING BREAK |
|  | 12/2 |  | 12/4 |
| 15 | DUE: Final Project – Special Vendor Quote  CLASS: Conflict Session – Final Project |  | DUE:  CLASS: Final Project – Open Lab |
|  | Thursday 12/9 10:30-12:30 | | |
| Final | FINAL Project presentation | | |