

Jackson State University
DR 306 – SCENIC DESIGN – CRN 11812
Spring 2013

I. Instructor Information

- A. Name: Patrick Benton
- B. E-mail address: william.p.benton@jsums.edu
- C. Office: UPA 302 (backstage hallway, stage right)
- D. Conference hours: Tue & Thu 10:30 – 12:00 pm, Wed & Fri 12:00 – 3:00 pm
- E. Phone: 601-979-5854
- F. Cell: 601-826-6699

II. Course Information

- A. Meeting times: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 – 10:20 am
- B. Meeting location: STAGE (or GREEN ROOM)
- C. Credit: 3 semester hours
- D. Course description: This course acquaints the student with artistic elements and practical techniques of scenic design. Laboratory work consists of several scene designs in different styles. Each design includes ground plans, perspective drawings and frontal elevations.
- E. Course objectives:
 - 1. Develop an understanding of scenic design practices.
 - 2. Learn to analyze a script from a scenic design perspective.
 - 3. Develop research skills in scenic design.
 - 4. Develop a basic proficiency in theatrical drafting for scenic design.
 - 5. Develop skills in making 2-D and 3-D representations of scenic design decisions
 - 6. Develop an appreciation for varied design solutions for theatrical productions.

III. Textbook and Course Materials

- A. Scene Design and Stage Lighting” by Parker, Wolf and Block. 9th edition. ISBN: 978-0-495-50190-9.
- B. Studio & Project materials.

All students will be expected to submit drafted groundplans of design projects. Either CAD (computer aided drafting) or traditional drafting is acceptable. In either case students should procure the necessary equipment to complete the drafting of their designs. A minimal collection of drafting equipment would include: T-square, two triangles, an architect’s scale, drafting pencils, eraser, circle templates and/or compass, French curves, erasing shield, and lettering guide, vellum and 1/4" gridded notepad paper.

Sample materials that will be utilized during the semester might include: illustration and matte board, watercolors and/or gouache, assorted artists’ brushes, colored pencils, assorted glues, hobby knives, balsa/bass wood, foam board, gesso and modeling paste. Other materials including many found objects may be added as desired by the individual student. **DON’T BUY ANY EQUIPMENT UNTIL WE TALK IN CLASS** – unless you already know exactly what you will need.

IV. Grading

Daily Participation	30%	Excellent	A	90% or better
Project One	25%	Good	B	80% or better
Project Two	25%	Average	C	70% or better
Test	10%	Poor	D	60% or better
Final Exam	10%	Unsatisfactory	F	less than 60%

V. Academic Dishonesty Policy

All acts of academic dishonesty (such as cheating on exams, plagiarizing another person's work as one's own, having another person write a paper, fabricating research data, presenting excuses which are untrue for failing to meet academic and professional standards) are a violation of University policy, and will result in appropriate penalties.

VI. Attendance Policy

- A. Students are expected to punctually attend all class meetings and remain for the full period.
- B. Students who miss more than three classes will have their final grade lowered by one letter.
- C. Students who miss more than seven classes will be assigned a failing grade.
- D. Being tardy three times is the equivalent of being absent once.
- E. Students who miss more than 15 minutes of a class period will be marked absent for the entire period.

VII. General Policies

- A. The usage of cellphones or other texting devices is not permitted in class.
- B. No eating is allowed in class.
- C. Students should read and follow the policies and procedures in catalogs, handbooks and other print and electronic publications of Jackson State University.

VIII. Studio and Shop Policies

Nothing is more important than safety. Theatre personnel occasionally work around power tools, electrical equipment, extreme brightness, total darkness, loud sounds, paint fumes, adhesive fumes, sharp tools and hot devices. Students must be vigilant regarding their own safety and the safety of those around them.

IX. Emergency Procedures

- A. Students should monitor the JSU website and local media for notice of class being cancelled due to weather or other emergency.
- B. Students should follow the instructor's instructions if inclement weather or any other disturbance occurs during class hours.

X. Special Needs Learners

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), you are encouraged to contact the ADA Coordinator and Compliance Officer, P. O. Box 1799, Jackson, MS 39217, telephone (601) 979-2485 as early as possible in the term.

XI. Diversity

Jackson State University is committed to creating a community that affirms and welcomes persons from diverse backgrounds and experiences and supports the realization of their human potential. We recognize that there are differences among groups of people and individuals based on ethnicity, race, socioeconomic status, gender, exceptionalities, language, religion, sexual orientation and geographic area. All persons are encouraged to respect the individual differences of others.

XII. Grievances

Any student who has a grievance and/or complaint must first discuss the issue with the professor. If there is no resolution at the student/professor level, the student can then address his/her complaint through the appropriate channels of administration:

Coordinator of Theatre Studies:	Dr. N. B. Smith
Director of Theatre:	Dr. Mark Henderson
Dean of the College of Liberal Arts:	Dr. Lawrence T. Potter, Jr.

Please note that documentation of a meeting at each level is required before the student may request a meeting at the next level.

CALENDAR: SCENIC DESIGN (subject to change)

DAY	DATE	TOPIC	DUE TODAY
THU	10-Jan	Overview & policies	
TUE	15-Jan	Introduction	read chapter 1
THU	17-Jan	Scene Design & the Theatre Space	read chapter 2
TUE	22-Jan	Studio: Pencil	
THU	24-Jan	Studio: Pencil	
TUE	29-Jan	Scene Design as Visual Art	read chapter 3
THU	31-Jan	The Design Process	read chapter 4
TUE	5-Feb	Studio: Pastel & Charcoal	
THU	7-Feb	Color in the Design	read chapter 5
TUE	12-Feb	Studio: Colored Pencil	
THU	14-Feb	Studio: Markers	
TUE	19-Feb	Studio: Paint	
THU	21-Feb	Intro: Realistic Interior Project	title for project
TUE	26-Feb	test	study ch 1-5
THU	28-Feb	Drafting the Design	read chapter 6
TUE	5-Mar	Studio: Drafting	
THU	7-Mar	Studio: Drafting	
TUE	12-Mar	SPRING BREAK	
THU	14-Mar	SPRING BREAK	
TUE	19-Mar	no class -- USITT	
THU	21-Mar	no class -- USITT	
TUE	26-Mar	Studio: Rendering	
THU	29-Mar	Realistic Interior Presentations	realistic interior project
TUE	1-Apr	Intro: Shakespeare Project	title for project
THU	3-Apr	Studio: Perspective	
TUE	8-Apr	Studio: Perspective	
THU	10-Apr	Studio: Models	
TUE	15-Apr	Studio: Models	
THU	17-Apr	Studio: Models	
TUE	22-Apr	Studio: Models	
THU	24-Apr	Shakespeare Project presentations	Shakespeare project
TBA - FINALS WEEK		final exam	study drafting, perspective, models

Bibliography

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- Ball, David. *Backwards and forwards: a technical manual for reading plays*. Second ed. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1998. Print.
- Brook, Peter. *The empty space*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996/1968. Print.
- Calloway, Stephen, and Elizabeth C. Cromley. *The Elements of style: a practical encyclopedia of interior architectural details, from 1485 to the present*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1991. Print.
- Carter, Paul, and Sally Friedman Carter. *Backstage handbook: an illustrated almanac of technical information*. 3rd ed. Louisville, KY: Broadway Press, 1999/1994. Print.
- Crabtree, Susan, and Peter Beudert. *Scenic art for the theatre: history, tools, and techniques*. 2nd ed. Boston: Focal Press, 2005. Print.
- Gillette, J. Michael. *Theatrical design and production: an introduction to scenic design and construction, lighting, sound, costume, and makeup*. 6th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2008. Print.
- Hendrickson, Alan, and Colin Buckhurst. *Mechanical design for the stage*. Amsterdam: Focal Press, 2008. Print.
- Holden, Alys, and Bronislaw J. Sammler. *Structural design for the stage*. Boston: Focal Press, 1999. Print.
- Jones, Robert Edmond. *The dramatic imagination: reflections and speculations on the art of the theatre*. New York: Routledge, 2004. Print.
- Juracek, Judy A.. *Surfaces: visual research for artists, architects, and designers*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1996. Print.
- Metzger, Philip W.. *The art of perspective: the ultimate guide for artists in every medium*. Cincinnati, Ohio: North Light Books, 2007. Print.
- Orton, Keith. *Model making for the stage*. Ramsbury: Crowood, 2004. Print.
- Rose, Rich. *Drafting scenery for theater, film, and television*. White Hall, Va.: Betterway Publications, 1990. Print.

Rowe, Clare P.. *Drawing & rendering for theatre: a practical course for scenic, costume, and lighting designers*. Amsterdam: Focal Press, 2007. Print.

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