THE 109.001, THE 309.001 - Theatre Practicum
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2012

Instructor: Michael G. Knight, Jr., Asst. Professor of Theatre Design & Technology
Office Location: PAC rm. 104
Office Hours: by appointment
Office Phone: 903.886.5311
Office Fax: 903.468.3250
University Email Address: Michael_Knight@tamu-commerce.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

By Paul Carter, illustrations by George Chiang
ISBN: 0911747397

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to learn theatre by doing theatre, in any and all of its aspects. Likewise, it is the duty of all of the shop supervisors to teach theatre by careful, structured training. In all cases the particular duties will tie as closely as possible to the production of the shows. When that is not possible, the duties will include routine cleaning and maintenance. We acknowledge that theatre cannot be fully taught in a formal classroom, as every day of every production presents new or unique challenges.

The course is therefore about problem solving, skills development, and use of the technology. However, it is also about the more abstract, perhaps more valuable aspects of the theatre, including such things as work ethic, reliability, positive attitude, respect and loyalty to each other and to the production. All of these things must be added to the more traditional values of scholarship, research, and artistic development. All of these things combined are what makes a person a well-rounded and employable theatre professional or teacher.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will learn essential skills (construction, painting, etc.) in the production aspects of Theatre
2. Students will be associated with production crews and the expectations therein
3. Students will be acclimated to proper attitude, skills and decorum required when working in a Theatre environment
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments:

1. Each student will fill out a survey form which indicates skills and interest areas. Whenever practical, you will receive an assignment based on your responses. Students are rotated through the various shops each semester depending on which area needs help at any given time, and to provide the student with a complete and well-rounded theater experience.

2. All Practicum assignments will be posted on the practicum call board which is located next to the graduate offices in the hallway. The production call board is located next to the back stage door across from the graduate offices. It will contain all the necessary information about the on-going production. It is your responsibility to check and read everything on both call boards every day. Information posted by noon on any day is your responsibility by noon the following day. It is imperative that you read the boards every single day as rehearsals and needs of the production can change at a moments notice.

3. The student will report to the appropriate supervisor, log in, and be ready to work at whatever task is assigned. You will be given an individual time sheet to be kept in your journal. It is your responsibility to fill in the starting and stopping time.

4. The student must be dressed in work clothes, or have work clothes available, even if the normal assignment can be done in nice clothes. You never know what you may be doing on a given day. Work clothes are understood to be those that you don’t mind getting messed up, and must include closed-toed shoes, for safety purposes! Students not properly attired for work will be dismissed and receive zero hours for that day.

5. Hours will be totaled each week. If you miss hours due to an unexcused absence, you will not be allowed to make those hours up later. Only an excused absence will be allowed to make up hours. Unexcused missing hours will be subtracted from your final hours at the end of the semester.

6. WORK CALLS: Students will be required to sign in and work at least one or two of the 3 hour time blocks for every extra work call posted. Work call hours can not be used to make up regular hours. Work call hours are mandatory. Sign up sheets for work calls will be posted on the practicum call board. If you are assigned to a shop and a work call is made, you must sign for a time in your assigned shop. Failure to work a work call will result in having the hours subtracted from your total hours at the end of the semester.

7. STRIKE: Strike is mandatory. Failure to show up for strike will result in failure in the course.

Grading:

Grading is on a point system and is mostly quantitative. This part of the grade is based on accumulation of points. Some points are fixed and obligatory. Others can be accumulated by other means. The point breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100 – 90</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 – 80</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>79 – 70</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69 – 60</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59 – 00</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A. Accrued Hours and Production Points (60% of final grade):

Shop/Practicum Hours: 1 pt for each hour of work
4 hrs a week for 15 weeks = 60 pts

___________________________________________________
TOTAL BASE POINTS = 60 pts

Additional Points can be accrued by the following methods:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work more shop hours</td>
<td>1 pt per hour worked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew a show (running the show!)</td>
<td>5-10 pts per production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design a show (requires at least a “B” average in practicum, study in the field and approval by the TD)</td>
<td>10-20 pts per production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Position (Stage Manager, ASM, House manager, Master Electrician)</td>
<td>10-20 pts per production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting in show</td>
<td>5-10 pts per production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ushering a show:</td>
<td>1 pts per show</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

All technology that a student will be required to utilize will be taught “on-site.”

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

N/A

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:

If at anytime during this course you are in need of further explanation or should need to speak with me about the course or it’s outcomes, please see me after class and set up an appointment time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Students enrolled in this will follow all safety procedures and policies set in place by the local, federal, and university governments.
**Attendance Policy:**

Regular attendance is required. Attendance in one of my classes means physical as well as mental attendance to the course. If I find you sleeping, texting, reading material not directly related to class, or unwilling to participate in class activities, you will be asked to leave the class and you will lose your attendance points for the day.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the undocumented use of other people’s intellectual property. Students caught plagiarizing will receive an “F” for the course and will also be directed to the Dean of Students to discuss the event. There are no exceptions to this rule.

**University Specific Procedures:**

**ADA Statement:**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu  
Student Disability Resources & Services

**Student Conduct:**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

The class schedule for Theatre Practicum is dependent on student availability and production schedule. Your schedule will be determined at the beginning of the semester by information provided by you and the needs of the department.