

Stagecraft TPA.2202C
Fall 2021
Lecture: Tu or Th 10:40AM-12:35PM
Lab: M/T/R/F 1:55PM-4:55PM
Room: CON-0219

Instructor: Eben Alguire
Office: CON-G-016
Office Hours: M/W, 10AM-12PM
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<https://calendly.com/ebenalguire>

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course aims to give a basic overview of theatrical production, with an emphasis on practicing the skills and process that go into creating a palpable world for a performance to exist in, with an emphasis on scenery and lighting. Along with practical skills, the course will teach safety on stage and behind the scenes, creative problem solving, and team work. A large part of the requirements of this course will be the lab section you are scheduled to attend as well as a run crew assignment for one of our shows.

Required texts:

- Carter, Paul and George Chiang
 - [The Backstage Handbook: An Illustration Almanac of Technical Information](#)
 - 3rd Edition
 - ISBN: 9 780911 747393
 - Note: This is a reference book, filled largely with diagrams, terminology, and formula, and it will be extremely helpful to take a glance at it as necessary
- Sanders, Tal
 - [An Introduction to Technical Theatre](#)
 - ISBN: 9 780415 717526
 - Book can be downloaded for free or printed for \$16
 - <http://www.lib.pacificu.edu/pup-theatre/>
 - <https://commons.pacificu.edu/work/sc/b2e02743-2b36-4018-821c-55daa5305cf6> (direct link to the files page)
 - For the whole book, download “Main File”
 - Or download the individual modules as needed

Additional required material:

- Architect’s Scale Ruler
 - At least 12” long
 - Make sure it is an Architect’s rule, not an Engineer’s rule

Additional useful, but not required, material (these are provided by the shop, but if you want your own, they’re pretty handy:

- 25’ tape measure
- Safety Glasses, Hard Hat, and Hearing Protection

Attendance Policies:

Attendance and punctuality are paramount in the world of theatre. Missing even one day of work without excuse in the world outside of college can result in an immediate loss of job prospects.

You will be allotted one unexcused absence, after that, each unexcused absence will cost your grade 25 points.

If you have a valid excuse for being absent, you are responsible for providing evidence or documentation within one week of the absence.

You are considered late if you arrive more than ten minutes into the class. Two tardies will equal one absence. If you are more than twenty minutes late, you will be considered absent.

If you are late or absent, you are responsible for reaching out to me or your fellow students to find out what you missed.

Grading Policies:

Due to the hands-on nature of this course and the material we will be covering, the grading will be weighted heavily towards attendance and participation.

There will be a comprehensive written exam.

Late work will be heavily penalized at -25% per day.

Meetings and office hours:

I will be available for office hours from 10AM-12PM on Mondays and Wednesdays. If I am not actually *in* the office at those times, check in the shop or on the stages. Additionally, you can schedule an appointment with me at my Calendly link:

Communications:

- Email and Canvas will be the primary means for communicating with the class as a whole
 - Events such as class cancellation will be sent as soon as possible when a cancellation is decided
- I also use Teams as a means for short and simple communication, but nothing important will be sent to the class via Teams

Weekly Schedule (subject to change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment	Notes
1	8/24-8-26	Overview, tour of spaces and shops, safety + tool overview	Module 1 Module 3	
2	8/31-9/2	Tool orientation	Module 15	Meet in shop
3	9/7-9/9	History, spaces, organizational structure Materials	Module 2 Module 4 Module 5	Safety Quiz
4	9/14-9/16	Scale rules + drawings Flats + Platforms	Module 7	<i>Dog Act</i> Opens
5	9/21-9/23	Project demo and work day	Module 14	Flat project assigned Meet in shop
6	9/28-9/30	Basic electrics	Module 11 Module 12	
7	10/5-10/7	Knots Fly systems + Rigging	Flats due	Meet in shop
8	10/12-10/21	Engineering	<i>Dog Act</i> responses due	
9	10/19-10/21	Automation		<i>Night Music</i> Opens Knot quiz
10	10/26-10/28	Props	Module 8	Props project assigned
11	11/2-11/4	How to get a job		<i>BFA Dance</i> Opens
12	11/9-11/11	No class!	No class!	Veteran's Day
13	11/16-11/18	Q/A Day Project work day	<i>Night Music</i> responses due	
14	11/23-11/25	No class!	No class!	Thanksgiving
15	11/30-12/2	Props projects due	<i>BFA Dance</i> responses due Props projects due	<i>Agbedidi</i> Opens
16	12/7-12/9	No class!	<i>Agbedidi</i> responses due	Reading day

Grading:

- Flats Project 150
- Props Project 200
- Backstage crew 100
- Production response 50
- Quizzes (2) 50
- Tests 100
- Lab hours 350
- **TOTAL 1000**

A	900-1000
A-	870-899
B+	850-869
B	800-849
B-	770-799
C+	750-769
C	700-749
C-	670-699
D+	650-669
D	600-649
D-	550-599
E	0

Shop participation:

- You must follow the rules of the shop, which includes
 - Proper attire (see below)
 - Use of proper PPE
 - Following direction from shop staff and supervisors
 - Zero-tolerance for discriminatory or derogatory language or action
 - Disregard of shop rules or general safety may result in eviction from the shop
- Be prepared for work!
 - Closed toed shoes
 - Clothes that can get dirty, painty, or damaged
 - No jewelry
 - If you have long hair, tie it back
 - No headphones
 - If you aren't prepared for work, you cannot work, and you cannot get hours
- Read, understand, and sign a shop participation form
- If you feel uncomfortable with any job or tool, seek out a staff member or supervisor immediately

COVID Policy:

- In response to COVID-19, the following practices are in place to maintain your learning environment, to enhance the safety of our in-classroom interactions, and to further the health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our loved ones.
- If you are not vaccinated, get vaccinated. Vaccines are readily available at no cost and have been demonstrated to be safe and effective against the COVID-19 virus. Visit this link for details on where to get your shot, including options that do not require an appointment: <https://coronavirus.uflhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>. Students who receive the first dose of the vaccine somewhere off-campus and/or outside of Gainesville can still receive their second dose on campus.

- You are expected to wear approved face coverings at all times during class and within buildings even if you are vaccinated. Please continue to follow healthy habits, including best practices like frequent hand washing. Following these practices is our responsibility as Gators.
 - Sanitizing supplies are available in the classroom if you wish to wipe down your desks prior to sitting down and at the end of the class.
 - Hand sanitizing stations will be located in every classroom.

- If you are sick, stay home and self-quarantine. Please visit the UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website about next steps, retake the questionnaire and schedule your test for no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms began. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 (or email covid@shcc.ufl.edu) to be evaluated for testing and to receive further instructions about returning to campus. UF Health Screen, Test & Protect offers guidance when you are sick, have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or have tested positive yourself. Visit the [UF Health Screen, Test & Protect website](#) for more information.
 - Course materials will be provided to you with an excused absence, and you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work.
 - If you are withheld from campus by the Department of Health through Screen, Test & Protect you are not permitted to use any on campus facilities. Students attempting to attend campus activities when withheld from campus will be referred to the Dean of Students Office.

- Continue to regularly visit coronavirus.UFHealth.org and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Backstage crew assignment:

- This course requires working on a backstage crew for one of our productions
 - Production calls listed on handout
- All times and dates subject to change by production manager
- You must attend the strike for your production
- If none of the productions are possible due to scheduling conflicts, meet with me ASAP to discuss alternatives or dropping the course

Production response:

- Pay special attention to the production elements of the show you work on
- Write a concise response (not a review!), focusing on the production and design elements, and how they fit with the show
 - 500 words
 - Utilize terminology that has been taught in class

Quizzes and Tests:

- There will be two scheduled quizzes and one scheduled comprehensive test

ADA Policy:

- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resource Center
 - Disability Resource Center – Reid Hall
 - (352) 392-8565
 - drc@ufsa.ufl.edu
- Do this as early as possible in the term so accommodations can be made
- I cannot help you if I do not know you need help

Course Evaluations

- Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>."

UF Honor Pledge

- UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. UF Conduct Code link: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

Campus Resources:
Health and Wellness

- *U Matter, We Care*: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center*: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center*: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department*: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center*: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).
- *GatorWell Health Promotion Services*: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.
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Academic Resources

- *E-learning technical support*: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.
- *Career Connections Center*: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.
- *Library Support*: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.
- *Teaching Center*: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
- *Writing Studio*: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
- *Student Complaints On-Campus*: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).
- *On-Line Students Complaints*: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#).

The Stage Carpenter

He wanders up, he wanders down,
A phantom on the scene;
He talks to none, he does his work
With countenance serene;
Although his purse is never fat,
'Tis like his figure - lean.
What is there he cannot construct?
An elephant to him
Is but a simple plight, or eke
A dragon fierce and grim,
And golden goblets all begemmed,
That never will grow dim.
He builds a ship, a paradise,
Where angels music speak -
Bright angels with a salary
Of just five bones a week;
And yet, in spite of genius,
His actions are so meek.
Tanks are his special workmanship,
And buzz saws meet his line;
And cottages and other things -
At these he's very fine;
And he can make a thunder cloud,
And moons that move and shine.
But who applauds this mystic art?
The bass drum wouldn't nod
At him, while on his daily rounds
The carpenter doth plod;
The manager? He knows him not -
A stranger in the fold.
I wonder if he ever thinks
Who cleverly will make
A little box for him some day,
That will not be a fake
When Life's last scene on him shall close
And Heaven's joy awake!

by Monroe H. Rosenfeld
~ The New York Clipper, November 3rd, 1894