

DESIGN STUDIO

TPA 6009
Fall 2025
Constans 218
Thursday 10:40 – 1:40

OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this course is to develop the artistic and practical aspects of designing for theater in the student's area of focus, with emphasis on conceptual thinking and the collaborative design process. This class prepares a student to conceptualize, design, and promote their work creating skills that sync with the needs of their future career. The course is designed to introduce students to the design processes and expectations for realized work within the School of Theatre and Dance. Guiding the students through group work sessions provides faculty mentors the opportunity to identify strengths as well as areas for improvement in order to broaden and refine individual abilities and an understanding of the other areas of design.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES:

This course addresses the following program outcomes:

- Giving students background and developing skills necessary to address design work in the departmental curriculum.
- Providing students with training and information required to complete work in the practical production program.
- Teaching students how to develop and apply research, design fundamentals, techniques for collaboration, and presentation skills during the design process as an essential component of assignments and production work

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing this course, students should be able to:

- Conceive and research design projects.
- Organize and translate conceptual work into practical applications.
- Communicate ideas visually and verbally.
- Manage their time efficiently.
- Have critical conversations about the history and future of the field.
- Develop professional materials for post- graduation success.

EXPECTATIONS:

- Graduate school is a self- motivated journey. You will get out of this program as much as you are willing to put in.
- The faculty views the program wholistically: we have 3 years together to learn, explore, and develop as designers. It will take a full 3 years. Choose to trust the journey.
- Students are expected to be engaged in all course material, discussions, and design sessions. If there are questions or points of clarification, please ask!

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Script 1

Script 2

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Sculpting Space in the Theatre by Babak Ebrahimian
Bringing Set and Costume Designs to Fruition: Made by Teams: Dasher, Shimon, Koscielniak
Late and Great: American Designers 1960—2010 edited by
Bobbi Owen

SUPPLIES:

Students will need a variety of supplies (digital and physical) for rough and final work on the design projects; these will vary according to individual preference.

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS:

DESIGN PROJECTS will follow the process and expectations laid out in the All-Designers Documents which can be found on canvas. These theoretical designs teach the expected process you will follow in realizing productions at The School of Theatre and Dance. Each meeting laid out in the All-Designers document corresponds with a Design Meeting in the course calendar. At Design Meetings please be prepared to present as laid out in the guidelines. You are expected to be prepared for each session with progress towards your next design meeting and the appropriate materials to work during class. Each step of your process will be submitted as one .pdf to Canvas for grading.

PROJECT 1 : The Tempest
PROJECT 2: The Secret Garden

READINGS: Assigned readings will be discussed in class. Participation in course discussion is required. Links to readings can be found on the canvas homepage.

PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS:

1st Year Students: Faculty will review your incoming professional materials and offer feedback for improvement. Faculty will review these materials AS IS. Please do not work on them until you have received feedback. It is expected that you will improve upon your materials each semester you are enrolled in the program. The next review of your materials will take place in January at our annual Fusion exhibition.

3rd Year Students: Faculty will review all of your professional materials and offer feedback. Incorporated into your in class work is preparation for a physical portfolio exhibit in order to prepare you for participation in Design Showcase South/East/West. Your goal should be to have a dry run of your exhibit fully prepared for Fusion in January so you can receive helpful feedback at that time.

Please note: SoTD is a sponsor of Design Showcase South hosted at the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta in late Spring (Date to be announced in October). While attendance is not required, the School will cover the participation fee for Design Showcase South ONLY. You can apply for funding for other events but it is not guaranteed.

ADDITIONAL EXERCISES: Additional exercises will be added at the discretion of the faculty based on the needs of the students in the course. Assignments will be graded and are expected to be engaged in fully and delivered on time.

GRADING:

The projects will be evaluated and critiqued in stages, with the project grade based on these stages of work, including artistic/conceptual work application of feedback, presentation, and adherence to deadlines. In theatre, time is money, and opening night is unlikely to be delayed until a designer manages to complete work. The grading scale will be as follows:

***A 94-100 % A- 90-93% B+ 87-89%
B 83-86% B- 80-82% C+ 77-79%
C 73-76% C- 70-72% D 68-69%
E 0-67%***

ALL PROJECTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CANVAS FOR GRADING

The university grading policies for assigning grade points may be found at
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

The final grade for the semester will be weighted as follows:

Project One 35 %
Project Two 35 %
Additional Exercises 10%
Class Participation 20 %

Late work will be reduced by one letter grade per class meeting.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

The success of this course is based on discussion and class participation. Attendance is vital. Only one (1) unexcused absence from class will be permitted without penalty. Each additional unexcused absence will lower your final grade by 5%. Two (2) late arrivals and/or early departures to/from class will count as one (1) absence. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade in this class. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate documentation. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academicregulations/attendance-policies/>)

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Information about university-wide policies and resources can be found here:
<https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>

COURSE SCHEDULE

Subject To Change

| Week/ Date | Reading Due | 1st Year Faculty Lecture | 3rd Year Faculty Lecture | Design Meeting |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| Week 1 Aug. 21 | Script 1 | Syllabus & Process Review, Establish Teams | Syllabus & Process Review, Establish Teams | Introductory Meeting |
| Week 2 Aug. 28 | Reading 1 | Collaboration Basics - Jen | Website Review- Mihai | Design Working Session |
| Week 3 Sept.4 | Reading 2 | Elements and Principals of Design- Mihai, Leo | Elements and Principals of Design- Mihai, Leo | Design Working Session |
| Week 4 Sept.11 | Reading 3 | Tones and Vocabulary of Collaboration - Leo | Tones and Vocabulary of Collaboration - Leo | Mid-point Presentation |
| Week 5 Sept. 18 | Reading 4 | Giving an effective presentation - Jen | Giving an effective presentation - Jen | Design Working Session |
| Week 6 Sept. 25 | Reading 5 | Professional Materials Review – Leo, Jen | Physical Portfolio Exhibit Basics - Mihai | Design Working Session |
| Week 7 Oct. 2 | None | None | None | Final Presentation |
| Week 8 Oct. 9 | The Secret Garden | Script Analysis by Area – Mihai, Leo | Professional Materials Prep Time - Jen | Introductory Meeting |
| Week 9 Oct. 16 | Reading 6 | Entertainment Industry- Jen | Entertainment Industry - Jen | Design Working Session |
| Week 10 Oct. 23 | Reading 7 | Professional Materials Prep Time - Leo | Professional Materials Prep Time - Mihai | Design Working Session |
| Week 11 Oct. 30 | Reading 8 | Guest | Guest | Mid-point Presentation |
| Week 12 Nov. 6 | Reading 9 | Process Review- Mihai, Leo | Academia – How does it work? - Jen | Design Working Session |
| Week 13 Nov. 13 | Reading 10 | Working in Europe - Mihai | Working in Europe - Mihai | Design Working Session |
| Week 14 Nov. 20 | Reading 11 | Working in Asia - Leo | Working in Asia - Leo | Design Working Session |
| Final | None | None | None | Final Presentation |