THET 116  
Fundamentals of Theatrical Design

University of Maryland  
School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies  
Course Syllabus – THET 116 Section 0101  
Tuesday and Thursday 3:30p – 5:20p – CSPAC 2733  
Spring 2013

INSTRUCTOR  Rebecca DeLapp  
OFFICE  CSPAC 3743  
OFFICE HOURS  Wednesday 1p – 3p or by apt.  
CONTACT  rdelapp@umd.edu/(763) 607-6784

INSTRUCTOR  Sarah Tundermann  
OFFICE  CSPAC 3745  
OFFICE HOURS  Tuesday 1p – 3p or by apt.  
CONTACT  stunder@umd.edu/(401) 578-4897

COURSE WEBSITE
The work of this class will be done on the course website via ELMS.

REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS
There is no required textbook for this course. All readings will be posted on the elms website. It is the student’s responsibility to check elms regularly. Please notify your instructor if there is trouble accessing anything on elms.

This class has a studio component, which requires supplies for hands-on work. These supplies do not need to be brought to class every day; however, if you do not have them on the day they are needed, it will affect your ability to participate in class. There are lockers available through the Theatre Dept.

REQUIRED MATERIALS
• (1) 4 oz. of Aleene’s tacky glue (Golden brown bottle)
• (1) small box of straight pins (not ball-point)
• (6+) sheets of single thickness black on black foam core board - 18” x 24”
• (1) X-acto knife.
• (1) box (15 count) of No. 11 X-acto blades. (Be sure that your blades and your knife are the same brand name. Not all brand names are interchangeable!)
• (1) 12” metal ruler (no smaller, cork-backed preferred).
• #2 pencils
• architect/engineer’s scale ruler
• (2) 1” Three-ring binder
• Sheet protectors
• Photocopies (color) for printouts of research and images for projects.
• Other project supplies (both 2-d and 3-d objects), which will vary from student to student depending on the materials, you choose to realize your design vision.

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS
• Sketch book at least 8”x10”
• Colored pencils or markers
• 1 permanent glue stick or jar of rubber cement.

All materials can be found in the campus bookstore or at CVS. However, there are many local art supply stores in the area, including Plaza, Utrecht, Jo-Ann’s Fabric, AC Moore, and Michael's; some of which offer student discounts.
COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the fundamentals of theatrical design through design terminology, style, and aesthetics. By examining and interpreting realized costume, scenic, and lighting designs in combination with class projects, students:

1. Analyze theatrical designs, visual art, and advertisements using standard design terminology.
2. Complete visual research for a play design using multiple media (print, internet, found object, fine art, etc.).
3. Visually articulate design ideas through the clear and concise presentation of research.
4. Learn to constructively and objectively critique theatrical designs and peer work.
5. Develop the vocabulary to articulate one’s own design ideas.
6. Gain a basic understanding of the collaborative role of each designer in the production team.

DESCRIPTIONS OF CLASSWORK
Note: Assignments and schedule are subject to change

PARTICIPATION
Class Participation/Preparation is a vital component of this course. The ability to effectively present your design ideas utilizing evocative visual language is critical in the development of the designer’s skills. Active, committed, positive, and constructive participation during discussions, in-class projects, critique and feedback of other students' work, and preparedness for each class is a core value and expectation of this course. Absences and lateness will have a negative affect on this portion of your grade. Students are required to notify the instructors prior to any conflict.

QUIZZES
At the top of each class a quiz may be given based on the material that the students have been learning throughout the semester. Students who are late or who have unexcused absences will not be allowed to make up missed quizzes. Quizzes are included in the students’ class participation grade.

REQUIRED PERFORMANCES
Students will be required to attend the following production and provide a one-page single space typed response to the design elements of the production

MFAP: Festival of New Works
February 1st – 16th

Dead Man’s Cell Phone
March 1st – March 9th

Shared MFA Dance Thesis Concert
March 14th – 15th

In Time of Roses
April 26 – May 4th

The written responses will be graded based on use of design vocabulary, visual awareness, and theatrical knowledge. The responses should be written assuming that the reader has an awareness of the production. Please remember that the responses should critique and discuss the design of the production, and should not include a review or discussion of the of the performance (ex. no discussion of themes, opinions, or synopses).

It is the students' responsibility to acquire tickets and/or arrange to see an invited dress rehearsal to each of the productions listed above. Students can often acquire student comp and/or student-priced tickets for all performances.
PROJECTS
Each project is designed to help the students expand their ability to communicate as a designer. The projects will be cumulative in skill level, meaning students will need the skills acquired in the previous projects in order to complete all of the preceding assignments. While class time will be provided for certain projects, student should expect and plan for the time require to complete projects outside of class.

All papers must follow standard MLA formatting.

PROJECT ONE – Script Analysis
In class students will be learning basic script analysis techniques by breaking down a short play. Each student will then be required to choose a fairytale and treat it as a script. Students will analyze the story using the script analysis format from reading #2 to be typed and handed in.

PROJECT TWO – 2-D Fairytale Concept
Based on the student's knowledge from their script analysis, their understanding of basic theatrical design elements, and their choice for a conceptual approach to their fairytale, they will create two dimensional representation of the environment of their fairytale in the form of a collage. The collage will be completed on one piece of 18’ x 24’ black foam-core to be presented in class and handed in. Students will be graded on neatness, creativity, use of the design elements, composition, and clarity of their chosen concept.

PROJECT THREE – Seven Deadly Sins
Using their knowledge of the elements of design and composition, students will create a three dimensional representation built within a box of foam-core of one of the 'Seven Deadly Sins'. A 'sin' will be assigned to each student. Class time will be used to construct the foam-core box, but students will be expected to complete their conceptualization of their assigned sin on their own time. The project will be presented in class and handed in. Students will be graded on neatness, creativity, use of the design elements, composition, and clarity of their assigned sin.

MIDTERM
A midterm will be given that will be based on reading and in class lectures.

PROJECT FOUR – Period Play
Project four is designed to introduce the students to the design process. Students will complete a script analysis, research book, and renderings for an assigned period play. Details to follow in a hand-out post midterm.

FINAL PROJECT– Modern Play
The final project is a group project designed to showcase the students' grasp on collaborate nature of theatrical design. Each group will complete a script analysis, research book, and renderings for an assigned contemporary play. Students will turn in the project as a group, and will be required to turn in an evaluation of their own and their group members' work.

GRADING CRITERIA
Students' grades will be broken down into the following criteria (subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project One</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Two</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Three</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Critiques</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Four</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,070</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A = >1,350 points
B = 1,200 – 1,349 points
C = 1,050 – 1,199 points
D = 900 – 1,049 points
F = < 899 points
PLUS MINUS GRADES
The implementation of plus minus grade factoring will begin in fall 2012. Under the new policy, quality points for each letter grade from A through D will reflect plus and minus components of the grade, as shown below. The plus/minus system will apply to both undergraduate and graduate courses. A+ = 4.0, A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.7, D+ = 1.3, D = 1.0, D- = 0.7, F = 0. The University's present marking system defining the standards for letter grades is retained under the new plus/minus policy. The present marking system is as follows:

1. A+, A, A- denotes excellent mastery of the subject and outstanding scholarship
2. B+, B, B- denotes good mastery of the subject and good scholarship
3. C+, C, C- denotes acceptable mastery of the subject
4. D+, D, D- denotes borderline understanding of the subject, marginal performance, and unsatisfactory progress toward a degree

F denotes failure to understand the subject and unsatisfactory performance
Students are required to earn a grade of at least C-in their major and have a minimum 2.0 Cumulative GPA in their major in order to graduate. [http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html](http://www.testudo.umd.edu/plusminusimplementation.html)

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY
University of Maryland Policies and Procedures Concerning Academic Assignments on Dates of Religious Observances provides that students should not be penalized because of observances of their religious beliefs; students shall be given an opportunity, whenever feasible, to make up within a reasonable time any academic assignment that is missed because of individual participation in religious observances. Students are responsible for obtaining material missed during their absences. Furthermore, students have the responsibility to inform the instructor of any intended absences for religious observances in advance. The student should provide written notification to the professor, by hand (not through email or mailbox delivery) within the first two weeks of the semester. The notification must identify holiday(s) and date(s). [http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii510a.html](http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/iii510a.html)

ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DISABILITIES
The University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities that have been documented by Disability Support Services (0106 Shoemaker Building, 301-314-7682). A disability should be verified and discussed with Disability Support Services and the student should provide an “Accommodation Letter” to the professor or TA. If you wish to discuss academic accommodations for this class, please contact the professor or TA no later than the end of the schedule adjustment period. For more information: [http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/](http://www.counseling.umd.edu/DSS/)

HONOR CODE
The University has a nationally recognized Honor Code, proposed and administered by the Student Honor Council and approved by the University Senate. The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads: "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination.” Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all exams, papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course. Students who fail to write and sign the Pledge will be asked to confer with the instructor. Please recognize that all students are subject to the requirements of the University's Code of Academic Integrity whether or not they write and sign the Honor Pledge. For more information: [http://www.orientation.umd.edu/VirtualFolder/academicintegrity.pdf](http://www.orientation.umd.edu/VirtualFolder/academicintegrity.pdf)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
University of Maryland is committed to maintaining a working and learning environment in which students, faculty, and staff can develop intellectually, professionally, personally, and socially, free of intimidation, fear, coercion, and reprisal. The Campus prohibits sexual harassment which is a violation of law and University policy. Individuals who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. The University has procedures in place to report sexual harassment and correct it when it occurs. Students who have questions may call the Campus Compliance Officer (301-405-2839), or the Legal Office (301-405-4945). To read the entire Policy see Appendix B in the Undergraduate Catalog. [http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html](http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html)
ATTENDANCE POLICY of the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies: Regular attendance and in-class participation are integral components of all dance and theatre classes and seminars. Although instructors are responsible for informing each class of the nature of in-class participation and the effect of absences on the evaluation of a student’s work, the School’s general attendance policy on excused absences is consistent with the University’s policy, which allows students to be excused for the following causes:

1. Illness of the student* or illness of a dependent as defined by the Board of Regents policy on family medical leave
2. Religious observance
3. Participation in University activities at the request of University authorities
4. Compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control

*In May 2011, the University Senate and President passed a new policy for granting excused absences, which can be found at http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/v100g.html. A student may provide a self-signed note when missing a single lecture, recitation, or laboratory, with the understanding that providing false information is prohibited under Code of Student Conduct. Self-signed notes are not accepted during “Major Scheduled Grading Events.” Specific questions concerning the TDPS policy on non-consecutive medical absences should be addressed with the Head of the Cluster.

Students claiming an excused absence must apply in writing and furnish documentary evidence for their assertion that the absence resulted from one of these causes. (Undergraduate Catalog, pages 36 & 37 or go to: http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html) Whenever possible, instructors will make a reasonable effort to re-schedule in-class presentations for students with an authorized excused absence. Students should check the specific requirements of their courses carefully, however, as such re-scheduling is not always possible.