Stage Property Design

THET372

INSTRUCTOR: TIM JONES
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CLASS MEETING TIME: Thursday, 6:00pM to 8:50pM
My office hours will be 10 to 12 on Thursdays OFFICE # 1702

About this course: This class is a basic knowledge class specializing in the area of properties production for the stage. The various classes and projects represent only a small exposure to the many skills needed to become an affective props Artisan. This class will cover basic construction techniques for the stage to more advanced props specific processes in furniture construction and restoration. These classes will also lay the groundwork to understanding the process of being a properties master from initial script analysis for props through working with the designers/ director/ stage management/ and other props Artisan. We will also discuss when and how to build/ buy/ borrow/ or find the props best suited to the production.

TEXTBOOK:
No Textbook is required for this class.   We will, however, be reading ******and using this play for some of our class projects. I have emailed each of you a PDF copy of the script that you can read and/or print for your use.

While there is no required text for this class, here is a list of books that I highly recommend. You will receive handouts and reading assignments from some of these books and they will be an invaluable resource for your props library. It is strongly recommended that you consider purchasing them to use, but it is not required.
• The What Where When of Theatre Props: An Illustrated Chronology from Arrowheads to Video Games. By Thurston James
• Dictionary of Furniture by Charles Boyce
• Upholstery: A Complete Course. By David James

Grades:
Grades will be determined as follows:

Tjprops@hotmail.com 301.405.7436 Thet 372 Fall 2013
25% On-time attendance at all classes
25% Class participation in discussions and in-class group projects + instructor’s awareness that you are actively participating in the learning process.
50% Successful completion of project work and assignments. (Assignments due date will be given with each assignment Project sheets will have evaluation criteria noted)

Letter Grade Equivalents are:
- **A** (90-100% total course points achieved) = consistently superior work in class and on assignments, excellent attendance
- **B** (80-89% total course points achieved) = consistently good work in class and in written assignments, good attendance
- **C** (70-79 total course points achieved) = satisfactory work in class and in written assignments
- **D** (65-69% total course points achieved) = work is unsatisfactory and/or incomplete, attendance is unsatisfactory
- **F** (below 65% total course points achieved) = failure to meet course requirements in assignments, attendance, participation

**Grading in a performing Arts Course**
Students demonstrate a wide range of levels of ability, and this course is a balance of experiential and cognitive work. Therefore, the specific components of the grades are not assigned percentage. Rather, the student is assessed by the progress shown in all of these areas throughout the course of the semester. For example, a student cannot receive a good grade if attendance and participation are excellent but the work is poor. Conversely a student cannot receive a good grade if the work is superior but attendance and participation are poor. The course philosophy is that everyone has talent; therefore a good grade must be based on consistent attendance and participation in class, evidence of understanding of concepts and timely submission of assignments and cooperation with the instructor and with peers. To receive a superior grade in this class, in addition to the other things mentioned, the student must have reached beyond a basic understanding to demonstrating consistently superior work.

Since many of the projects build on previous work done in the semester, it is important that all deadlines be met. This will assist you in learning at the highest level. Late work will negatively impact your grade as well as your learning in this class. While we will try to complete most of our work in class, you should anticipate an equal or greater number of hours outside of class, as is allowed in class, to successfully complete all your project work. See attached proposed lecture and project calendar.
**Additional Info:**

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY**
The University’s policy "Assignments and Attendance on Dates of Religious Observance" 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 within the first two weeks of the semester. The notification must identify the religious holiday(s) and the date(s). The student should avoid the use of email or mailbox delivery of the notification to avoid problems.

For more information: [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 (4th Floor Susquehanna Hall, 301-314-7682). A disability should be verified and discussed with Disability Support Services before the student contacts 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, administered by the Student Honor Council. The Student Honor Council proposed and the University Senate approved an Honor Pledge. 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: www.umd.edu/honorpledge and http://www.shc.umd.edu/code.html

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY
The University is committed to maintaining an academic work environment free of sexual
harassment for all faculty, staff and students. Sexual harassment diminishes individual
dignity and impedes equal educational and employment opportunities. Sexual harassment
will not be tolerated at the University; it is a violation of law and University policy.
Individuals who engage in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action. Please
be advised that the University has procedures in place to report sexual harassment and
correct it when it occurs. Students who have questions about sexual harassment or the
University policy and procedures may call the Campus Compliance Officer (301-405-
2838), or the Legal Office (301-405-4945). To read the entire Policy see "Appendix B:
Campus Policy and Procedures on Sexual Harassment" in the Undergraduate Catalogue
For more information: http://www.president.umd.edu/legal/policies/sh.html

ATTENDANCE POLICY of the Department of Theatre
Regular attendance and in-class participation are integral components of all 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 Department’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 (where the nature of the observance prevents the student
   from being present during the class period)
3. Participation in University activities at the request of University authorities
4. Compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control

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)

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.  
http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/atedasse.html