

THEATRE 314
LIGHTING STAGECRAFT
(professionalism 101)

Fall, 2009

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Hours: Monday & Wednesday 12:00 – 13:00, Tuesday 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment
Text: no text, but there are required tools
Prerequisite: THR 230, or by permission
Final: Wednesday, December 16, 13:30 - 16:15 (perhaps longer)

You must be concurrently enrolled in THR 200 Play Production Practicum

This class has *two* goals:

- 1) To give the student practical knowledge and experience as a theatre electrician and Master Electrician for theatre
- 2) To give the student a better understanding of how to successfully enter the work place as a theatrical electrician and interact with theatre professionals.

In order to achieve these goals, we will spend the semester meeting in both the classroom and the laboratory (theatre). You will be responsible for the material covered in both settings. In addition, we will spend time preparing for the inevitable integration into the professional milieu.

There will be *six* components for the evaluation of your work in this class. They are:

- 1) Completion of all objective and skills tests, announced or unannounced (30%)
- 2) Participation, in part, with *all* assigned light hangs, focuses, and strikes (30%)
- 3) Completion of the assigned paper (20%)
- 4) Completion of the assigned oral report (20%)
- 5) Concurrent enrolment with THR 200 with your assigned project, to be grades separately from this class

Failure to complete more than one of the above criteria will result in a failing grade no matter what your class average.

- 6) And finally, there can be no denying there is a subjective component to any grade, including the final grade, that is up to the discretion of the instructor (+/- ?%).

If you are a student with a **disability** and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

Interruption due to cell phones, pagers, or other outside communication devices is deemed unacceptable. This is true not only in the classroom but in the theatres you attend while seeing productions. Such interruptions will result in additional assignments, usually in the form of a paper, to the offending party and be graded on a pass/fail basis. I emphatically recommend you turn these devices *off* before entering classroom or the theatre!

Honor Code: George Mason University shares in the tradition of an honor system that has existed in Virginia since 1842. The Honor Code is an integral part of university life. On the application for admission, students sign a statement agreeing to conform to and uphold the Honor Code. Therefore, students are responsible for understanding the provisions of the code. In the spirit of the code, a student's word is a declaration of good faith acceptable as truth in all academic matters. Therefore, attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing of academic work and related materials constitute Honor Code violations. To maintain an academic community according to these standards, students and faculty must report all alleged violations of the Honor Code to the Honor Committee. Any student who has knowledge of, but does not report, an Honor Code violation may be accused of lying under the Honor Code.

Read more about the Honor Code at: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/9798/honorcod.html#code>

Theater Production Activity Participant Advisory

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise you of certain risks and responsibilities that you may encounter during the scene shop, lighting, and theater related production activities in **THR 314 Lighting Stagecraft**. This advisory is designed to protect the enrollees, the University, and other participants in the program. Safety and compliance with instructions are essential to the learning process of the class and are included in calculating your grade.

The teaching of theater production involves the participation of students in scene shop, on-stage, and other theater-related activities. These may take place during the class period or during designated time periods as specified by the instructor. The activities include, but are not limited to, using shop tools, hanging/cabling/focusing lighting instruments, building/moving/installing scenery, painting scenery, and working with materials such as lumber, steel, and plastics. They may involve exposure to toxic fumes, heat, heavy lifting, and the use of power tools. Each of these potential hazards is capable of inflicting a severe injury. In addition, there are the normal dangers associated with scene shop and stage activities: cuts, bums, falls, electric shock, splinters, and spilled paint.

A designated University faculty or staff member will instruct you in the safe and proper use of tools, equipment, and general stagecraft procedures. Do not use tools or equipment without direction and

permission of the supervising faculty or staff member. You will be provided with personal safety devices (face shield, ear protectors, lifting tools, etc.) and you must use them when appropriate. You will not be required to perform any activity with which you feel uncomfortable. You are expected to observe the laws of Virginia and exhibit adult behavior. If you do not comply with instructions or appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, you will be asked to leave the premises and may be dropped from the course. Due to the nature of the production schedule and the layout of the workspaces, a faculty or staff member may not always be present in the immediate area; when in doubt, seek out the instructor.

Although the University has attempted to make the theater and its production area safe, personal injury and property loss/damage is possible. Any injuries, thefts, damage to personal property, or dangerous conditions should be reported immediately to the supervising faculty or staff member. It is strongly recommended that participants carry medical insurance and not bring expensive clothing or equipment to the area. George Mason University is not a guarantor of personal safety nor does it assume responsibility for lost or damaged personal items. This notwithstanding, GMU stands responsible for the negligent acts and omissions of its faculty, staff, and agents.

If you are not able to undertake the risks and responsibilities outlined in this memorandum, please discuss this immediately with the instructor and/or withdraw from the course. By participating in these activities, you acknowledge that you have been informed about certain risks and responsibilities, and that you are knowingly and voluntarily assuming them.

Weekly Schedule

subject to change without notice

WEDNESDAY

September	2	Introduction / Professionalism / Safety / Tool List / Plots & Paper Work
September	9	Instrumentation and Accoutrements / Hanging / Focussing / Cabling
September	16	Tools Due / Dimmers / Circuits / Channels
September	23	Cable / Connectors / Expendables / Troubleshooting
September	30	HANG STUDIO #1 (lab hours only)
October	7	TEST #1 / CABLE MAKING TEST
October	14	FOCUS MAIN STAGE #1
October	21	Electricity / Load calculation Light Boards / Lift Safety / Strikes
October	28	Wiring / Switches / Lamps/ Sockets / Bases/ assign paper

November	4	TEST #2 / assign oral report
November	11	HANG STUDIO #2 (lab hours only) / paper due
November	18	Basic rigging / Basic Steel and Boom Assembly / Knots
November	25	<u>No Class -- Happy Thanksgiving</u>
December	2	Oral Report Due Day
December	9	Review for final / PRACTICAL EXAM (this class could go long)
December	16	<u>FINAL EXAM 13:30 – 16:15</u>