

SCENIC DESIGN

Theatre 310-SPRING 2012

rev. 16.Jan.12

Tues & Thur 9:30 AM -10:50 PM

Classroom: PBK 130 / MOR 240

Instructor: Matthew Allar

3 credit hours

Office: PBK Room 131

Phone: 757-221-2694

Email: mjallar@wm.edu

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 3-4pm, Tue 11-11:45am (and by appointment)

TEXTS:

Liliom. Ferenc Molnar ISBN # 0573611599

The Beauty Queen of Leenane. Martin McDonagh ISBN # 0822216647

What Is Scenography. Pamela Howard ISBN # 0-415-10085-2

OTHER READINGS, FILMS, ETC: Additional research materials on reserve in Swem Library, sent via email, or distributed to you in class

COURSE GOALS and DESCRIPTION

This course is intended for students who wish to develop their understanding of the specific processes and methodologies associated with Theatrical Scenic Design. Building on a range of experiences engaged previously via THEA 300 (Fundamentals of Design), this course allows students to specifically focus on a single design discipline for an entire semester.

By the end of the term, each student will develop a skill set capable of:

- **analyzing a theatrical text as a sensitive, informed, scenic designer**
- **assembling a comprehensive body of visual research**
- **developing relevant, articulate idea sketches**
- **creating one, two, and three point perspective renderings**
- **creating scaleable, color, theatrical models**
- **creating scaleable design drafting**
- **developing digitally assembled images and drafting**
- **communicating effectively via words and images with other collaborators**

GRADING

Participation / Attitude	120 points	<i>The Bear</i> Project	125 points
Production Responses	50 points	Computer Drafting	100 points
Emotional Responses	30 points	Dance Project	100 points
<i>Beauty Queen</i> Project	125 points	Inspiration & Innovation	25 points
<i>Pentecost</i> Project	125 points	Final Project/ <i>Liliom</i>	200 points

Your final grade is earned via the following distribution:

		B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699	F	599-
A	940-1000	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	630-669		
A-	900-939	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629		

ATTENDANCE: IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL STUDENTS ATTEND EVERY CLASS. If you are too ill to attend class, you must email me or leave me a voicemail **prior** to the beginning of class. (**no later than 9:29am**) Additionally, YOU MUST OBTAIN A VALID DOCTOR'S NOTE EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST "MAKE-UP" ARRANGEMENTS. Individual projects and tests missed as a result of any other, non medical absence(s) can only be made up by **prior arrangement** with the instructor. Each instance will be handled on a case by case basis. Exceptions will be made for a personal crisis or serious illness; however such situations must be directed through the Student Affairs office. Class will begin promptly at 9:30am each day. **DON'T BE LATE.** Arriving more than ten minutes late to class constitutes an absence. This includes any time you may need to prepare yourself or your materials for the day's class. **NOTE:** Quizzes and impromptu written, artistic, and oral responses from the assigned reading will often take place at the beginning of class, and cannot be made up due to tardiness. **Any unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by 20 points in each instance, in addition to preventing you from receiving credit for the material due that day.**

In addition to attending each class, you are also required to attend the three main stage departmental productions (*Night of the Iguana*, *An Evening of Dance*, and *Ruined*). Attending these productions will allow you to generate a written response to the design elements (sets, lights, costumes, and sound) from each theatrical show. Please note the performance schedule as soon as possible as your attendance at these events is mandatory, as is the VA Stage production of *Black Pearl Sings* on Saturday, February 4th. We will leave PBK at approx. 2pm. Price TBD.

PARTICIPATION: This class demands personal and communal commitment. Theatre is inherently a collaborative art form and therefore, so is this class. I expect that each student will arrive prepared for each class session. This includes completing all assigned work for the given session, but also means arriving at the studio mentally and physically prepared. Active listening skills are as important to the theatre artist as his/her verbal and artistic skills. If at any time you feel as though your thoughts and opinions have been unfairly dismissed by me, or by another student, please speak to me about as soon as possible, as I can then work toward improving your class experience.

SNACKS AND DRINKS: Beverages in *closed* containers, are permitted in class, provided that they do not become a distraction to anyone / portion of the class. It is expected that you will *maintain the cleanliness* of the room as a working design studio. Please, no food in class.

PHONES: Turn them off. Not on vibrate, off. No exceptions, No texting. Zilch, Nada, Nope. Any violation of this policy during classes will **reduce your final grade by 10 points (P.A.C.) in each instance.**

MISCELLANEOUS: This is a class where **NEATNESS COUNTS.** All written work must be **neatly typed using a twelve point font style**, unless it is required to be submitted in another format, and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. All visual work should be prepared with as much care and precision and possible.

Any assignment consisting on multiple pages must be stapled in the upper left corner.

All work must be submitted on time (at the beginning of the class period on the date due). No assignments will be accepted via email or at a later date.

DESIGN ROOM KEY AND DRAWER POLICY: So that you may store your work materials, you will receive a set of 3 keys to 3 drawers in one of the worktables. At the end of the semester, you must return your keys to me. If you do not return your keys, you will receive an “*incomplete*” until I have the set of keys (however, it will not affect your final grade-just when you get the grade). If you lose your keys, please let me know ASAP as I will retain an extra set of keys and can replace lost or broken keys *at your expense* (\$2.50 per key). Pairs of students may also claim a flat file drawer by writing their names on the blank card in the brass holder. Please **DO NOT** write on the drawers themselves or affix / tape / stick anything to the drawer face or interiors.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Don’t cheat. Don’t lie. Don’t Steal. A complete description of the College of William and Mary’s Honor System can be found in the student handbook. If you have any questions about this policy, please speak with me about it *prior* to choosing your course of action.

STATEMENT OF DISABILITY: If you have a documented disability and need reasonable accommodations to fully participate in course activities or meet course requirements, you must:

- (1) contact the Director of Disability Services in the Dean of Students Office.
757-221-2510 www.wm.edu/deanofstudents/disable
- (2) meet with me, the instructor, within two weeks of receiving a copy of the accommodation letter from the Director of Disability Services to discuss your accommodation needs and their implementation.

MATERIALS LIST: In addition to the aforementioned texts, you are also responsible for obtaining the following equipment and supplies. Please note that many items on this list are “expendables” and thus, will need to be replaced at a rate dependent on your personal usage. Some things are easier to find than others so I will do my best to help you with your search. Locally, many items are found at the college bookstore, or at Walls Alive, located in the Newtown Shopping Plaza. Many online vendors are available as well, but I encourage you to speak with me about utilizing them before making any purchases. (some are better than others !) On occasion, I will request that you bring your laptops to class, but will make sure to give you advanced notice. You should make arrangements to gain access to a color printer.

The first group is the list from Fundamentals of Design

#2 pencils (not mechanical)
 4B, 2B, H, 2H pencils
 Manual pencil sharpener
 Art Gum Eraser
 11 x 14 or bigger pad of newsprint
 12” or longer steel ruler
 8 x 10 or bigger sketchbook (spiral ring is best)
 16 foot long (or greater) tape measure
 30-60-90 triangle 10”
 45-45-90 triangle 10”
 18” x 24” Drafting Vellum (10 sheets minimum) – try to buy clear print brand, non gridded
 12” Architectural Scale Ruler (white, with the fractions on the ends – NOT the 10,20,30, etc)
 Drafting Dots or Drafting Tape
 White Vinyl Eraser and Erasing Shield
 Reeves Watercolor 12 Pan Starter Set (or a similar water color – NOT GUACHE – set)
 Black 3/16 Thick Foam Core
 Bristol Board Pad 20 Sheets 11 x 14 – 2ply Vellum Finish
 Black and White Mat Board 20 x 30
 Snap off style Mat Knife and Precision Exacto Pen Knife (#11 size) with spare blades
 Delta Sobo Craft Glue
 12” x 18” (or bigger) Self healing cutting mat

You will also need the following for Scenic Design

Circle Template
 Adjustable (but geared) compass
 Large French Curve
 Small French Curve
 A 1GB (or bigger) flash drive
 8” Adjustable Triangle
 Detail Eraser
 12” Wide Roll of White Tracing Paper (not sheets and not vellum)

***** Please Download a free student version of Vectorworks 2012**

<http://www.nemetschek.net/student/index.php>

***** Additionally, access to a digital camera will help, as will purchasing a box of large garbage bags and/or a large card stock folder for transporting your work *****

THEATRE 310 SCHEDULE : SUBJECT TO CHANGE

rev. 16.JAN.12

1	1/19	First Class : Welcome : Fear and Loathing : <i>HW Read Designer as Thinker, Thin Slicing, Supplies</i>
2	1/24 1/26	Discuss Readings, Back to the Art Gym: <i>HW Conquer the Void – Tix \$ Due</i> <i>Ruined Update and Voids: HW Read The Bear, Breakdown, Create Emotional Response</i>
3	1/31 2/2 ***2/3	Discuss <i>The Bear</i> and Emot Responses : <i>HW Create Sketches and Assemble Images for T.B.</i> MORTON Dig Collage W/ <i>T.B.</i> : <i>HW Three T.B. Collages, begin PENTACOST in Mainstage</i> 4:30pm -5:30pm Dance Collaboration Project mtg in Adair
	***	Saturday, Feb 4 attend VA Stage Performance of BLACK PEARL SINGS. 2pm-7:30pm
4	2/7 2/9	MORTON Layering Digital Textures and shadows: <i>HW finish collages, finish PENT.</i> Discuss PENT, Needs, Messy GP's : <i>HW messy GP's / Rough GP's in PBK/Research</i>
5	2/14 2/16 ***2/17	Oh No, Perspective ! Turning GP's into a perspective sketch : <i>HW Begin to develop PENT sketch</i> Continue With Perspective Objects : <i>HW Continue Sketches</i> 2-4:30pm Dance Collaboration Presentations in Adair
6	2/21 2/23	Response to Dance Project /In class perspective work – shade and tone : <i>HW finish PENT sketch</i> Catch Up Day : <i>HW TBD, Production Responses</i>
		IGUANA THURS FEB 23 – SUN FEB 26
7	2/28 3/1	Discuss <i>IGUANA</i> : <i>HW Read Beauty Queen, Messy GP's, Rough Sketches in STUDIO THEATRE</i> Remembering the Research Binder: <i>HW Beauty Queen, Brkdwn, Research, Sketches</i>
8	3/6 3/8	NO CLASS : SPRING BREAK : <i>HW Drive to Key West – think about BQ presentations</i> NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK : <i>HW Drive back from Key West – plan BQ presentations</i>
9	3/13 3/15	<i>BQ Presentations: HW Draft GP and Basic Elevations for BQ</i> Continue with GP and Elevations : <i>HW Finish Drafting and Build Model Box of Studio</i>
10	3/20 3/22	<i>BQ Status, White Models from Drafting : HW Build BQ White Model from Drafting</i> <i>My Model is lame ! What happened ? : HW Revise, Fix, Conquer, Download VW</i>
		AN EVENING OF DANCE THURS MAR 22 – SAT MAR 24
11	3/27 3/29	NO CLASS – MATT AT USITT: <i>HW Continue to finish model details</i> NO CLASS – MATT AT USITT: <i>HW Read Liliom, Breakdown, Emotional Response</i>
12	4/3 4/5	The Vectorworks Basics : <i>HW Translate BQ Drafting via VW</i> Continuing with Vectorworks: <i>HW Finish Vectorworks Package of BQ Drafting</i>
13	4/10 4/12	Discuss <i>Liliom</i> work : <i>HW Repair / Replace Stage Houses, Rough White Models</i> In class work session : <i>HW TBD</i>
14	4/17 4/19	In class work session / individual check ins : <i>HW TBD –</i> In class work session / individual check ins: <i>HW TBD – Production Responses</i>
		RUINED THUR APR 19-SAT APR 22
15	4/24 4/26	Discuss <i>RUINED</i> , In class work session : <i>HW TBD</i> Final Class In class work session : <i>HW TBD</i>

FINAL DESIGN PRESENTATIONS: Wednesday, May 2nd 9a-12pm