



SCENIC PAINTING

Theatre 203-Fall 2025

rev. 27.AUG.25

Tue & Thur 9:30 AM -10:50 AM

Instructor: Matthew Allar

Classroom: PBK Paint Shop

3 credit hours

Office: PBK 247

Phone: 757-221-2694

Email: mjallar@wm.edu

Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:30-11:30am

Thurs 11:30am-12:30pm and by appointment

MATERIALS:

6-8 1 Plastic quart containers with reseal-able screw top lids (Grocery / Hardware Store)

1 Gallon of White, Flat, Water Based Interior Paint (Hardware Store – see last page)

2 4” Wide Natural Hair Chip Brushes (Hardware Store – see last page – buy cheap ones !)

16 Foot (or greater) tape measure (Hardware / Discount Store – buy a cheap one !)

#2 Pencil(s)

A small notebook (pocket sized is best)

1 Large White Towel or 2 White T-Shirts

~~*** Additionally, each student is responsible for a \$120.00 scenic paint (\$75) and brushes (\$45) fee due no later than Tuesday, Sep 9th 2025 : NO FEES THIS YEAR THANKS TO T&P !~~

COURSE GOALS and DESCRIPTION

Goals: By the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Mix colors from stock paints to match paint samples
2. Lay out cartoons for architectural and organic shapes using projection and freehand drawing
3. Conceive, construct, and employ stencils for repeated patterns
4. Demonstrate an ability to select and employ color to achieve a given effect
5. Create paint base scenic illusions accurately and quickly
6. Work directly from painter's elevations with minimal guidance

This course seeks to introduce students to the role of the scenic artist in the theatre production process. During this course you will generate a series of painted images on traditional scenic elements. The exercises will begin with basic skills in applied color theory and your ability to



create various colors from stock paints. We will then engage in a series of projects which will enable you to develop a skill set of basic techniques. The course culminates in a final project designed to showcase your mastery of painting techniques, and the compilation of a basic portfolio of scenic artistry.

CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS: This is a class in which you will get messy. It is highly likely that your clothing and shoes will come into contact with paint during every class session. I recommend that you establish a set of “paint clothes” and wear them to each session. Additionally, only closed toed shoes (not sandals, crocs, flip flops, etc) are permitted in class or at work sessions. Arriving with inappropriate footwear will constitute an absence.

GRADING

Color Mixing	40 points	Marble Panel	100 points
Wooden Floor	100 points	Final Project	150 points
Interior Wall	100 points	Participation and Process	100 points
Brick Wall	100 points	Production Response	30 points
Cartooning	80 points	Practical Hours	200 points

Your final grade is earned via the following distribution:

A	930-1000	B	830-869	C	730-769	D	630-669
A-	900-929	B-	800-829	C-	700-729	D-	600-629
B+	870-899	C+	770-799	D+	670-699	F	599-0

ATTENDANCE: IT IS EXPECTED THAT ALL STUDENTS ATTEND EVERY CLASS AND LAB SESSION.

If you are too ill to attend class or lab hours, you must email me or leave me a voicemail **PRIOR** to the beginning of session. Individual projects and assignments missed as a result of any other, nonmedical 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. Plan to arrive at 9:15am for class. Instruction will begin promptly at 9:30am. This gives you 15 minutes to arrive, change and set up your materials and tools. **Arriving more than ten minutes late to class or lab hours constitutes an absence.** Any unexcused absence will reduce your final grade by 10 points (P&P) 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 main stage departmental theatrical production of *The Scarlett Pimpernel*. Attending this production will allow you to



generate a written response to the visual elements (sets, lights, and costumes) from the show. Please note the performance schedule as soon as possible as your attendance at this on campus event is mandatory.

PARTICIPATION: This class demands personal and communal commitment. Making theatre is inherently a collaborative art form and therefore, so is this class. It is expected that each participant will arrive prepared for each class session – mentally, physically, and emotionally. This includes completing all assigned work for the given session but also means arriving at the paint shop mentally and physically prepared. Active listening skills are as crucial to our work as verbal and creative 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 it as soon as possible, as we can then work toward improving your class experience.

SNACKS AND DRINKS: There is a water fountain available in the hall next to the shop. Any other beverages must be safely contained in closed lid vessels. Please refrain from bringing any food or class or lab hours.

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**. This is important for both class and lab sessions.

MISCELLANEOUS: This is a class where NEATNESS COUNTS. 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.

PRACTICAL / LAB HOURS: Each student is also required to spend a total of 20 Practical/Lab hours painting on the main-stage show this semester. I will distribute a sign up sheet with 60 minute time slots. These practical hours will allow you to directly apply classroom techniques on a realized production. It is important to remember that the Practical/Lab hours are an extension of the class and require the same attendance and preparation. Each lab hour will equate to a possible 10 points (i.e. 20 hours x's 10 points = 200 total points). Your point total will reflect your attitude about the work, and the quality and quantity of work completed. Once you sign up for lab hours, you may not miss, re-schedule or make up missed time slots without previous discussion with me (*please do not abuse this courtesy as your work impacts many others who are also working on the production.*) **Lab hours will begin in Week #8**



EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION: In this class, we strive to recognize the broadest representation of perspectives, ideas and expertise from all people without bias or preference toward race, color, ethnicity, creed or sexual identity. This is an anti-racist, inclusive space. Any violation of this collective understanding will not be tolerated in this course. Additionally, William & Mary acknowledge the Indigenous peoples who are the original inhabitants of the lands our campus is on today – the Cheroenhaka (Nottoway), Chickahominy, Eastern Chickahominy, Mattaponi, Monacan, Nansemond, Nottoway, Pamunkey, Patowomeck, Upper Mattaponi, and Rappahannock tribes – and pay our respect to their tribal members past and present.

MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING: William & Mary recognizes that students juggle different responsibilities and can face challenges that make learning difficult. There are many resources available at W&M to help students navigate emotional/psychological, physical/medical, material/accessibility concerns, including:

- The W&M Counseling Center at (757) 221-3620. Services are free and confidential.
- The W&M Health Center at (757) 221-4386.
- To seek assistance for interpersonal, academic, and wellness challenges, please contact Care Support Services at wm.edu/care (care@wm.edu).



- For a list of other [resources](#) available to students, see [here](#) or:

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Don't cheat. Don't lie. Don't Steal. A complete description of the of William & Mary's Honor System can be found in the student handbook. If you have any questions about this policy, or what constitutes a violation of this agreement, please speak with Prof. Allar about it *prior* to choosing your course of action.

STATEMENT OF ACCESSIBILITY: William & Mary accommodates students with disabilities in accordance with federal laws and university policy. Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a learning, psychiatric, physical, or chronic health diagnosis should contact Student Accessibility Services staff at 757-221-2509 or at sas@wm.edu to determine if accommodations are warranted and to obtain an official letter of accommodation. For more information, please see www.wm.edu/sas



THEATRE 203 SCHEDULE : *SUBJECT TO CHANGE*

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1	8/28	First Class : Welcome : Fear and Loathing : Shop Tour and Expectations: <i>HW Buy Materials</i>
2	9/2 9/4	Pass Out Supplies, Color Mixing Basics : <i>HW Color Wheel on Paper</i> Mixing Color Specific Hues : <i>HW Color Match Samples, Claim Flat</i>
3	9/9 9/11	Washing, Priming, Parts of a Brush, and Prepping : <i>HW Claim Flat / Prime Flat (2 coats)</i> Establishing a Base / Wood Floor Layout : <i>HW Base and Floor Layout</i>
4	9/16 9/18	Wood Grain Techniques and Tools : <i>HW Mix Grain and Lay In Boards W/ Techniques</i> Highlights, Lowlights, and the Lining Stick : <i>HW Hi / Low with stick</i>
5	9/23 9/25	Mixing To An Elevation / Int. Wall : <i>HW Base Flat & Mix Major Colors</i> Establish field colors and layout : <i>HW complete lay out and lay in</i>
6	9/30 10/2	NO CLASS NO CLASS
7	10/7 10/9	Adding Texture and Trim / Int. Wall : <i>HW Add Texture Samples and Trim</i> NO CLASS FALL BREAK:
8	10/14 10/16	Syllabus Catch Up Day: HW Interior Fixes and Finishing Touches Charcoal Cartooning : <i>HW Base Flats, Work on brown paper expanded cartoon</i> LAB HOURS BEGIN END OF THIS WEEK
9	10/21 10/23	Layout From a Grid : <i>Complete Gridded Paper Layout</i> Brick layout with stamps over a layin color : <i>Layin Color, Begin Brick Stamping</i>
10	10/28 10/30	Lining and Spattering : <i>HW Establish cut lines and spatter</i> Using and Mixing a Glaze : <i>HW Finish Brick Stamping and Add Glaze</i>
11	11/4 11/6	Marble: <i>HW Base Flats & Marble Layin</i> Veining, Spatter, and Spray : <i>HW Finish Marble</i>



12 <i>Layin onto</i>		11/11 Wet Blend Puddling: <i>HW Puddle / Wet Blend Stone</i>
		11/13 Pounces and Stencils: <i>HW Pounce and Stencil Design Flat, Begin Lay in</i>
13 <i>HW</i>		11/18 Highlights and Lowlights : <i>HW Add Highlights and Lowlights to Pounced Images</i>
11/20,		11/20 Final Proj Discuss /Interpreting the Final Elevation : <i>Full Scale Paper Mock-Ups, F&T Resp.</i> WMT product. of <u>SCARLETT</u> in The Glenn Close Theatre
		11/21, 11/22 @ 7:30pm & 11/23 @ 2:00p
14 <i>Eat</i>		11/25 REMOTE INSTRUCTION DAY-Discuss the production: HW TBD
		11/27 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING BREAK: HW Some Tofurkey
15 <i>mixing</i>		12/2 Review Full Scale Paper Mockups: <i>HW Work on color match /</i>
		12/4 Final Class : In class work session on final project
IN PERSON FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS: FRIDAY DEC 12th 9a-12p		

BUY THIS PAINT FROM ACE HARDWARE (Flat White or Ultra White Interior)

BUY THESE CONTAINERS (large size)



BUY TWO (2) 4" CHIP BRUSHES

