

THEA 3343
Scenic Painting
The University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Theatre and Dance

COURSE INFORMATION

THEA 2301: Scenic Painting

Term: Spring 2026

Meeting Day and Time: T TH 9:00-10:20, Fox Fine Arts, FOX D171

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Cynthia Esparza

E-mail: cesparza12@utep.edu

Office hours: 12:00- 16:00 MTWTHF (office, on stage or by appointment)

Course Description

Scenic Painting (2-3) Discussion of the formulation and handling of scene paints and dyes, brushes and tools, and painting techniques. Practical laboratory work in problems of the realistic representation of a variety of textures and materials at scenic scale leads to fully developed illusionistic and pictorial stage scenery.

Course Goals

This course is designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of scenic painting within the context of theatrical production. Through hands-on studio work and collaborative projects, students will:

- Develop technical proficiency in a variety of scenic painting techniques used in contemporary theatre.
- Understand scenic painting practices as they relate to professional standards within the entertainment and theatre industry.
- Apply scenic painting methods through supervised, hands-on studio and shop-based activities.
- Explore the collaborative relationship between scenic painting, scenic design, and other production departments.
- Utilize research from real-world references to inform scenic painting processes in support of technical theatre, design, and production objectives.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate competency in fundamental and intermediate scenic painting techniques appropriate for theatrical productions.

2. Apply color theory, texture development, and surface treatment methods to scenic elements based on design requirements.
3. Translate scenic design concepts and renderings into painted scenic components that support the visual storytelling of a production.
4. Conduct visual research using photographic, historical, and material references to inform scenic painting decisions.
5. Collaborate effectively within a theatrical production environment, demonstrating professional communication and teamwork skills in the scene shop.
6. Identify and articulate the responsibilities, workflow, and professional expectations of the Scenic Charge Artist.
7. Execute scenic painting assignments that meet established quality standards, safety protocols, and production deadlines.

Materials Provided by Instructor

- 4' x 4' wood panel
- Paint
- Rags
- Spray bottle
- Paint containers
- Sponges
- Wood graining tools
- Stencils

Required Materials (Students Must Bring) – Basic Tools & Brushes

- Two brushes (2" and 3")
- Detail brush set (small round or flat)
- Pencil and Sharpie
- Masking tape or painter's tape (1" blue tape)
- Refillable water bottle (for cleaning brushes)

Materials Provided by Instructor (Optional for Students to Bring Their Own)

- Sponge
- Roller (4") with tray
- Rags or old T-shirts for blending
- Spray bottle
- Wood graining tools
- Paint containers

Text book:

There is no required textbook, if there are any readings to be done, they will be assigned a PDF posted on Blackboard, to be reviewed and discussed in class.

Course Grading

Grading for this course will be based on class attendance, completion of projects according to individual rubrics given, visible improvement of skills and techniques from one project to another, and ability to present your final projects with specific attention to the process you took. Any further questions regarding grading can be discussed with the instructor as necessary.

Course Policies

1. Attendance:

Given the current state of our health crisis/safety parameters, I highly encourage you to stay home if you do not feel well. However, please keep in mind that this course requires hands-on, consistent attendance and presence in order to accomplish course objectives. For every unexcused absence, 10 points will be taken from the total points available under the Attendance category. Please make sure you stay in contact with me if you have extreme circumstances and need to reevaluate your commitment/ability to complete this course.

2. Student Conduct and Discipline:

The University of Texas at El Paso expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in academic pursuits. I expect all our discussions, including any that may occur outside of class, to be conducted in a respectful and professional manner.

Any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty includes, and is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOP) can result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others.

Deadlines:

I understand that sometimes life makes it difficult for you to complete all of your assignments on time, but learning to manage your time so that you can meet deadlines is an important skill for any theatre practitioner. **No late work will be accepted without prior authorization.** Arrangements must be made 48 hours in advance when possible.* If you encounter an emergency which prevents you from completing your work, please notify me promptly.

Chosen Names and Personal Pronouns:

Everyone has the right to be addressed by the name and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity, including non-binary pronouns, for example: they/them/theirs, ze/zir/zirs, etc. Rosters do not list gender or pronouns so you may be asked to indicate your pronouns and chosen name. Chosen names and pronouns are to be respected at all times in the classroom. Mistakes in addressing one another may happen, so I encourage an environment of openness to correction and learning. I will not, however, tolerate repeated comments which disrespect or

antagonize students who have indicated pronouns or a chosen name. If at any point during the semester you would like to be addressed differently, please let me know.

Accommodations:

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting accommodation based on a disability must register with the UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

Course Resources:

UTEP Technology Support Center: The Technology Support Center (TSC) offers UTEP students access to state of the art computing equipment and specialized software for academic needs.

The TSC is also home to the PC Clinic, which offers computer software repair services to students at no cost. The center is located in the library, room 300 (747-5257).

Student Health Center: UTEP Student Health Center is here to meet the health care needs of all students so they can focus on their studies. As a student you have paid a medical service fee that allows you to be seen at the clinic as often as needed. Office visits are low cost as well as medications, supplies and any needed lab tests (747-5624).

University Counseling Center: The UTEP University Counseling Center located at 202 Union West can assist you to decide on a career or work through personal concerns. They provide confidential counseling services, assist with stress management, and offer an after-hours crisis support line (747-5302).

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is subject to change if the instructor finds it is necessary for student success. Any changes and adjustments will be communicated with students.

Extra Credit Options:

Students may come in and volunteer hours in the scene shop and earn extra credit points. Each hour worked is 1 point, for example: if you volunteer 10 hours, you will receive 10 pts. The shop hours are Monday through Friday from Friday at 12:30 pm - 5:00 pm at the scene shop. If you are interested in this option, you must complete the required safety training (available on Blackboard).

Your last day to complete any hours for extra credit is May 7rd.