

**THEA 3343**  
**Scenic Painting**  
**Spring 2020**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Monday and Wednesdays 9:00am to 10:20am**  
**Fox Fine Arts – Drama D170 Scene Shop**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is designed as an introductory course on the fundamentals of scenic painting for theatrical purposes. Students will begin learning about color mixing and matching in order to fully understand the process of painting in production. All projects will consist of students being able to demonstrate scenic painting techniques ranging from stone, to brick, to wood grain.

**COURSE GOALS:** The goals of this class are for the students to develop an understanding of the concepts and principles of Scenic Painting, Trompl'oeil, and Color Creation. Students will obtain an intermediate scenic paint vocabulary in order to communicate at a professional level when the course is completed. The overall goal is that the instruction from this class will follow students into their advanced work in scenery, costumes, lighting, and stage management.

**CREDIT ALLOCATION:** 3 Credit Hours

**FACULY INFORMATION**

Name: Nicole Bianco, MFA, BA  
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Office Hours: TR 10:30 – 11:20

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

-*Scenic Art for the Theatre* Third or Second Edition by Susan Crabtree and Peter Beudert  
ISBN-13:978-0240812908

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES:**

This course requires you to come to class prepared to paint and get dirty. This course will be conducted in the scene shop which has a strict clothing requirement for your safety. The standard of attire is full length shirt with sleeves (no crop tops), full length pants, and close-toed shoes that can be covered in paint. If a student comes to class without the standard attire, they will be absent for the day and will **NOT** be allowed to make up that day's class assignments. Come prepared or be absent from class.

-USB Flash Drive	-Charcoal Sticks (black and white)
-Architect Scale Rule	-8 (1-quart) paint buckets with lids – these will be how you store your paint – Can be purchased at Walmart, Lowes, and Home Depot
-Pencils	-Small Detail Paint Brushes (optional)
-Eraser (Most important supply!)	-Spray Bottle (optional)

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive on time. Each student is allowed **2 absences** before their final grade is affected. Their final grade will be lowered for each absence beyond the 1 “allowed” absences. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. **It is your responsibility to make sure you sign in each day.** In accordance with university policy this course will excuse a student from attending classes or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel for said holy day. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. Participation in official university business must be documented by a written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member and given to the instructor PRIOR to the event. Each student must present their related plans to the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class.
2. **Student Conduct and Discipline:** “The University of Texas at El Paso expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding student conduct and discipline, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Handbook of Operating Procedures.” Those regulations and policies can be found at (<http://hopp.utep.edu/StudentAffairsIndexPageHOP.htm>) and in the “Catalog” of the University of Texas at El Paso.

For the purpose of this course, you may not collaborate on any project without receiving specific instructions to do so by the instructor. When given, such instructions will only apply to the current assignment. Any projects after said assignment will return to being completed independently.

3. **Blackboard Access:** Students are required to subscribe to and access the course Blackboard site. This site is the main communication source between faculty and students. Students are encouraged to access the site daily. The course syllabus, calendar, outline of scheduled lectures, assigned readings, and assignment criteria are posted on this site. Assignment grades and final course grades will be made available only through this site.
4. **Communication:** Communication is the responsibility of both students and faculty. Faculty will keep students informed of progress and students will inform faculty of any deterrent to their success.
5. **Special Needs:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor in person as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements may be made. Students should contact UTEP Disabled Student Services and acquire verification at (<http://www.utep.edu/dsso>). Any request for special accommodations must be presented by the second week of class.
6. **Plagiarism:** Offering the work of others, as one’s own is plagiarism. You will be held accountable for such actions as outlined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures. Those regulations and policies can be found at (<http://hopp.utep.edu/StudentAffairsIndexPageHOP.htm>) and in the “Catalog” of the University of Texas at El Paso.

7. **Content of Theatre Productions:** The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual's rights to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.
8. **Environment:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment, which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by instructor, students are **prohibited** from using cellular phones and other electronic devices, eating or drinking, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any form of distraction in the classroom. First violation of this policy will result in the instructor talking with the student immediately and the student being asked to leave the class. Second violation will result in the student being asked to leave and them losing credit for any assignment or challenge completed that day.
9. **Assignments:** Projects must be turned in on the date they are due to get full credit for any assignment. Late assignments will be penalized 10 percent for each day they are late. After one week, the highest percentage possible for a fully completed project is 60%. I build in time in class to work on your assignments, but you will need to commit time outside of class to complete your assignments. Do not get behind. Catching up will be very difficult.
10. **Meetings:** Individual student conferences may be made by arrangement or during listed office hours.

## **STUDENT 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).

## **Course Requirements**

1. All projects are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated on the class schedule.
2. Reading assignments are due at the beginning of each day.
3. You must see a minimum of two Theatrical Productions produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the UTEP Dinner Theatre. All extra shows, including the Dinner Theatre, or the greater El Paso/ Juarez community and the Dance Production will be counted as extra credit (extra credit will go towards Class Participation and Attendance).

**PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL REQUIRED SHOWS AND EXTRA CREDIT SHOWS AT UTEP: You are required to sign an attendance sheet at the end of the performance you attend. If you do not sign this sheet at the end of the performance you will not get credit for attendance. The house manager will have the sign out sheet available at the end of each performance.**

4. All work must be completed to a presentation quality. Work that does not meet that standard will have to be resubmitted. All projects must be submitted in a digital copy emailed before class begins or handed in class with a labeled USB flash drive.
5. Printing your research and examples will take time and material to produce. Late project due to print supply problems will not be excused.
6. Work can be turned in during class, in my faculty mailbox, or in my hands in my office. No work is to be submitted by slipping it under my office door or left in the slot outside by office. Assignments submitted by email only will not be accepted, paper copies must be submitted.
7. Assignments can be resubmitted for reconsideration of grade. The longer past the original deadline, the less credit that will be available. Assignments that are resubmitted must include the original submission and a note detailing the revisions that have been made.
8. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class. If you are late to class, you have the time remaining of those 10 minutes to complete the quiz. Anyone with an excused absence will be allowed to take the quizzes at another time. Anyone with an unexcused absence forfeits their chance to take the quiz.
9. There will be several in-class paint challenges. These are to test each student's ability to follow the techniques being shown in class. For each challenge, every student will have 10 minutes to reproduce a technique shown by the instructor. Anyone with an excused absence will be allowed to redo the challenge. Anyone with an unexcused absence forfeits their chance to complete the challenge.

## **Project Descriptions**

Although Scenic Painting is an artistic craft with specific standards, the grades for projects will include looking at the ability growth of each student individually.

1. **Project #1: Color Matching Project** – Students will take an advertisement from a magazine or online and match 20 different colors from it. Students are allowed to submit 5 colors as extra credit or in case several colors are not perfect. Each color match will be worth 2 points and the presentation of the color matching is worth 10 points. Presentation must include the advertisement, matching colors labeled on advertisement, the color swatches, and name of student mounted to poster board or mat board.
2. **Project #2: Cartooning Project** – Using drawing techniques and grids, students will take a scaled drawing and scale it to full scale.. Students will be graded on their accuracy in cartooning out the design. This project will be used for Project #3 so make sure you erase added marks or unnecessary pencil lines.
3. **Project #3: Trompl'oeil Project** – Taking the techniques demonstrated in class, each student will take their cartooned image and transform it into a dimensioned drawing. Students will have time in class to complete project and will be provided charcoal (black and white) for this project. Students will be graded on their use of highlight, shadow, and the dimensional techniques of Trompl'oeil. Messy or smudged work will be marked down.
4. **Project #4: Lettering Project** – Using the lettering techniques practiced in class, students will get a lettering style they must reproduce in a larger scale. Students will first lay out their reproduction in pencil and then using lining brushes, they will complete the letters in paint. Each student will be graded on their accuracy of reproduction and painting. Messy or smudged work will be marked down.
5. **Project #5: Build Soft Flat** – For this project, students will learn the proper way to build and base coat a soft flat for use in their projects. Each flat will be graded on it making the specific dimensions given by the instructor and the completion of a proper base coat of paint. Messy or sagging muslin will be marked down.
6. **Project #6: Overpainting Technique** – Taking the overpainting Technique demonstrated in class, student will be replicated 4 for the 7 Techniques. Each student must do dry brushing and graining. For the other two sections, they get to choose between sponge, rag roll, spattering, stamps, or stencils. Each student will be graded on their accuracy of reproduction of each technique. Messy or smudged work will be marked down.
7. **Project #7: Wood Grain Technique** – Each student will choose a woodgrain technique to replicate from teacher's stock of wood grains. Students will be graded on their accuracy of color and replication of given wood grain technique. Messy or smudged work will be marked down.
8. **Project #8: Stone Technique Project** – Students will choose a stone technique to replicate from teacher' stock of stone textures (either brick or uneven stone). It is the student's goal to replicate the chosen stone texture. Students will be graded on their accuracy of color and replication of given wood grain technique. Messy or smudged work will be marked down.
9. **Project #9: Aging or Wallpaper Technique Project** – After the lesson on aging and wallpaper techniques, students will have one class to replicate a technique. This project is just to introduce aging and wallpaper to students. This is your chance to try another technique that you might need to use for another project or production.

10. **Final Project:** Taking what you have learned from your time learning Scenic Painting, Each student will submit for approval a poster or painting they would like to replicate. If you cannot find posters that you are interested in, several examples will be provided. Keep in mind you have 3 days to work on this in class and this project is due on the Final date and time. Students will present their reference photograph of the art work along with their painting during the final. In order to get full points, each student must ensure their painting has their name

### **Grading Breakdown**

<b>Class Participation and Attendance</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>In Class Paint Challenges (4 total – each worth 10 pts)</b>	<b>40 pts</b>
<b>Quizzes (4 Total – each worth 10 pts)</b>	<b>40 pts</b>
<b>Project #1: Color Matching Project</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #2: Cartooning Project</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #3: Trompl’oil Project</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Project #4: Lettering Project</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #5: Build Soft Flat</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #6: Overpainting Techniques</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Project #7: Wood Grain Technique Project</b>	<b>75 pts</b>
<b>Project #8: Stone Technique Project</b>	<b>75 pts</b>
<b>Project #9: Aging or Wallpaper Technique Project</b>	<b>25 pts</b>
<b>Final Project</b>	<b>200 pts</b>
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	<b>Total: 905 pts</b>

**Breakdown: 814-905: A**  
**724-813: B**  
**633-723: C**  
**543-632: D**  
**000-542: F**

*Please Note: Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, is subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor to enhance learning opportunities. Any and all changes will be clearly communicated.*