

**THEA 4332 Advanced Scenic Design**  
**Fall 2019**  
**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Independent Study**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION/COURSE OVERVIEW:** This course is designed to enhance students' knowledge and skills needed for the art and process of Scene Design. Students will design in a collaborative setting while learning the skills of practical implementation of design, technical drawing, model building, rendering, and technical troubleshooting.

**COURSE GOALS:** The goal of this class is for all students to comprehend the many facets of set design through standard classroom and lab work. Areas of mastery include: Drafting, Design Techniques, Painting Techniques, Model Building, Properties Design, Rendering, Presentation and the Communication of Ideas.

**COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:** THEA 3306

**CREDIT ALLOCATION:** 3 Credit Hours

**FACULTY INFORMATION**

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**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

- The Elements of Style by Stephen Calloway and Elizabeth Cromley  
ISBN 1554070791 OR 0684835215
- Model Making for the Stage: A Practical Guide* by Keith Orton (suggested not required)  
ISBN: 978-1-86126-690-3
- The Dramatic Imagination* by Robert Edmond Jones  
ISBN: 9780878305926
- Designing and Drawing for the Theater* by Lynn Pecktal (suggested not required)

**Other Reading:**

*Medea* by Euripides

*Anna and the Tropics* by Nilo Cruz (Design #1)

*On the Verge* by Eric Overmyer (Design #2)

*Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine

## REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

This is not a complete list and you may already have many of these tools. **I will let you know when to bring these supplies to class.**

Sketchbook (11"x14" min)	T-Square
Drafting Pencils (4B, 3B, B, H, 2H, 4H)	Two Triangles (30/60/90 & 45)
Pencil sharpener	Compass
Erasers and Erasing Shield	Scale Rule (Architect)
Black Foam-core (1/4" thickness)	Circle Template
X-acto Knife + Blades	Drafting Tape/Dots
Self-Healing Cutting Mat	Sheets of White Paper
Colored Pencils, Markers, Pastels	Acrylic Paints
Watercolors and Paint Brushes	Suggested Software:
SOBO Quick Dry Glue OR Tacky Glue	Adobe Photoshop
Modeling Supplies – Bristol Board, Foam Core	Vectorworks – Available Free
	Student. Myvectorworks.net

## COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to check in with professor every other week to present progress on work or present a project. This agreed upon time will be scheduled at the beginning of the semester. 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 PRIOR to the event. Such students 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.
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 scheduling a meeting after class. Second violation of this policy will result in the instructor referring the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At that meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in an immediate referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the Handbook of Operating Procedures of The University of Texas at El Paso.
9. **Assignments:** Projects must be turned in on the date they are due, **no late work will be accepted.**
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 readings, assignments, and selected additional course work will be in class or expected as homework.
2. Reading assignments and projects are due at the beginning of each class.
3. Students are required to attend all productions produced by the Department of Theater and Dance (shows: Monsters We Create and Into the Beautiful North). 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, your paper will not be accepted and you will receive a 0 for the assignment. The house manager will have the sign out sheet available at the end of each performance.**

4. Students are required to submit a 2-3 page MLA formatted double spaced response of one of the productions. The response is due the first class period after the strike of that production, and is to be typed and handed in at the beginning of said class period.
5. Lab Requirements: In addition to the class meeting times, you will be required to complete **10 hours** of production work in a single production. This work must be completed in the scene shop or on a running crew.

You cannot receive credit for a running crew if you are cast in the same production.

Part of working in the shop is safety. You are required to go onto BlackBoard and read the shop safety presentation by the first week of your work in the shop. After you have read and understand all of the safety protocols of the Scene Shop.

PLEASE NOTE: The 10-hour minimum that must be obtained to receive a passing grade for this portion of the class. Attitude and work ethic are factors in the scene shop portion of the grade.

### **Grading Breakdown**

<b>Class Participation and Attendance</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Response to Show</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Sketchbook</b> (each week worth 5 pts)	<b>55 pts</b>
<b>Scene Shop Hours</b> (10 hours total)	<b>40 pts</b>
<b>Project #1: Found Object Project</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #2: Scenic Design Inspiration</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #3: Statement and Research for Design #1</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #4: White Model for Design #1</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #5: Drafting for Design #1</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #6: Model or Rendering Design #1</b>	<b>75 pts</b>
<b>Project #7: Research Collage</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #8: Statement and Research for Design #2</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #9: Drafting for Design #2</b>	<b>50 pts</b>
<b>Project #10: Final Presentation for Design #2</b>	<b>100 pts</b>
<b>Final Project #11 (Design #3)</b>	<b>150 pts</b>
<b>Total: 920 pts</b>	

**Breakdown: 868-965: A**  
**772-867: B**  
**675-771: C**  
**579-674: D**  
**000-578: F**

Once an assignment/project is graded, students will receive a graded rubric in class, as well as, posted in the Blackboard Grade Center in a reasonable amount of time.

### **Assignments/ Projects for Class:**

**Note: You will need to make time once a week to check in on your progress.**

**In Class Projects (Part of Class Participation):** Color Theory, Research Techniques, Drafting Techniques

### **Sketchbook Assignments:**

Each week, you are responsible for sketching an object, element or furniture piece from an individual in history. This is to help you learn to balance research time with getting a design down on paper quickly. **Your Sketchbook Will Be Collected At the Beginning of Each Week. Turn Them Into My Mailbox In The Office or At My Office by 5 pm of the assigned week.** You should not spend more than 90 minutes doing these assignments.

\*Keep this sketchbook with you at all times. When you see something you like, write it down. Doodle while you are waiting for the bus or write down a funny conversation. If you get used to recording what you see in this sketchbook, your drawing skills can only improve.

For Each Sketch:

- Use minimum 11x14” Drawing Paper (**Whole Sketchbook Must Be Turned In Each Week**)
- Research the person, period and object (Use a library!) **Must** include one inspiring research image taped in sketchbook.
- Sketch an actual object or create one from your understanding of the research
- Use call outs or written notes to explain details you cannot in your sketch (Does it move/ spin?)
- Do not obsess over the quality of the sketch. Be quick but precise with what you are trying to communicate.
- Include all pieces of information you deem necessary to illustrate your design.

Week	Period	Person/Object	Due (5pm)
1	Ancient Egypt	Cleopatra’s Throne	Sept. 4
2	Ancient Greece	The Parthenon’s Floor	Sept. 9
3	Ancient Rome	Julius Caesar’s Chariot	Sept. 16
4	Medieval	Merchant’s Street Cart	Sept. 23 (Submit on BB)
5	Renaissance	Michelangelo’s Door	Sept. 30 (Submit on BB)
6	Baroque	Bach’s Favorite Piano	Oct. 7 (Submit on BB)
7	Romantic	Mary Shelley’s Desk	Oct. 14
8	Victorian	Queen Victoria’s Window	Oct. 21
9	Art Nouveau	A Designer’s Door (Your Choice)	Oct. 28
10	Art Deco	Superhero’s Chair (Your Choice)	Nov. 4
11	Arts & Crafts	George R. R. Martin’s Desk	Nov. 11
12	Contemporary	Sia’s Chandelier	Nov. 13 Extra Credit

**Response to Theatrical Performance:** one 2-3 page MLA formatted response based on the technical aspects in the theatrical performance. Need to attach ticket to paper when handing in assignment. Due no later than 12/4/19 at 5pm.

**Project #1 – Found Object Project:** Create a sculpture that is made from “found objects” based on at least one of the Elements of Design. Nothing can be purchased for this project. It must have a title and be labeled as your work. Only limitation is it must fit through the door to the classroom.

**Project #2 – Scenic Design Inspiration:** With the play Medea by Euripides, you must develop a scenic design for the show (must be a color sketch) inspired by the illustrations of a selected children’s book illustrator.

**Project #3 – Statement and Research for Design #1:** Create a written concept statement, three (3) thumbnail sketches, five (5) pieces of historical research, and five (5) pieces of conceptual research for Design #1. Presentation of sketches and research are portion of graded assignment. Student must film themselves giving the presentation and submit the video through Blackboard. It must be submitted with your concept statement, sketches, and research in order to receive full credit. If your file is too large, it must be sent to the instructor through email before the due date and time.

**Project #4 – White Models for Design #1:** Complete 2 variations of white model designs (1/8” scale) for Design #1. Photographs of Front, Side of both variations with a written explanation must be submitted on Blackboard by 10 AM on 9/30/19 to receive full credit.

**Project #5 – Drafting Design #1:** Create 1/4” scale drawings for Design #1. Drawings include: ground plan, section, and elevations.

**Project #6 – Model or Rendering for Design #1:** You choose to create a fully rendered model (including housing) or a full rendering for Design #1.

**Project #7 – Research Collage:** Create a research collage of “design abstraction” for Design #2.

**Project #8 – Statement and Research for Design #2:** Create a written concept statement, three (3) thumbnail sketches, five (5) pieces of historical research, and five (5) pieces of conceptual research for Design #2. Presentation of sketches and research are portion of graded assignment.

**Project #9 – Drafting Design #2:** Create 1/4” scale drawings for Design #2. Drawings include: ground plan, section, and elevations.

**Project #10 – Final Presentation for Design #2:** Create a Fully Rendered Model for Design #2. Presentation should include you showcasing any changes/additions to research, concept statement, and presenting your final rendered model.

**Project #11 – Final Presentation of Design #3:** Presentation should include all these materials: Concept statement, Research, Thumbnail sketches, Rough Ground Plan (1/4” Scale), Complete Floor Plan (1/4” Scale), Complete Section (1/4”), Elevations (1/4” Scale), Paint Elevations of Two Units, 2 pages of Prop Research, and 1/4” Fully Rendered Model.

*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.*