

# Introduction to Theatrical Design

THEA 1305-001

MWF 11-11:50am  
FA 419

Instructor: Michelle Harvey  
Office: FA 419A  
Office Hours: 9am-11am Monday or by Appt.  
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## Student Learning Outcomes:

- 1) The student will be able to use the elements of design and composition to create imaginative and successful theatrical designs.
- 2) The student will be able to use scale to create accurate drawings.
- 3) The student will be able to demonstrate basic design skills in the four main areas of theatrical design.
- 4) The student will be able to effectively communicate a design idea.
- 5) The student will increase their drawing/sketching/rendering skills.

## Text: required

- Stephen DiBenedetto. An Introduction to Theatre Design: Routledge, 2012. ISBN# 978-0-415-54754-3

### Recommended:

- J. Michael Gillette. Theatrical Design and Production: McGraw Hill Higher Education, 2012. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN# 978-0-07-351419-2
- R. Craig Wolfe, Oren Parker, Dick Block. Scene Design and Stage Lighting: Wadsworth, 2009. 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. ISBN# 0155061143.
- Barbara & Cletus Anderson. Costume Design: Thompson/Wadsworth, 1999 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. ISBN: 015508379
- Clare P. Rowe. Drawing and Rendering for Theatre: Focal Press, 2007. ISBN: 9780240805542

## Required Supplies:

- **Sketchbook**: at least 11"x14"
- **4" x 6"** non-lined notecards – at least 40. Bring at least one to every class.
- **¼" graph paper**: **4 or 8 squares per inch**. At least 6-10 sheets – **do not get 5 squares per inch paper**.
- **Black drawing paper**: you will need at least 2-4 sheets- Art Again or similar paper- at least 9" x 12"
  - Do NOT get black construction paper- it should have a smooth surface. Michaels usually has this.
- **Poster board, Bristol board and/or foam core for research collages and model building** (some will be provided, but you may need to supplement depending on your project)
- **Drawing tools**: Pencil drawing/sketching set (will have a variety of lead types), Architect scale rule, colored pencil set- (Prismacolor is recommended, but Crayola will work too), tape measure, straight edge for drawing straight lines (30/60/90 and/or 45/45/90 triangles are great).
- **Other as needed**: Craft Glue, Ex-acto knives, metal straight edge, acrylic and/or watercolor paint and brushes (most of these will be available for use in room 419. **May not be taken from the room**)

**Bring Sketchbook and pencils (colored and otherwise) to every class!!!**  
**We may have impromptu sketching days, and you should try to sketch something- no matter how small- at least everyday.**

**Grades: Based on 1100 points total**

- Attendance (100pts)
  - Daily Sketches 34 @ 5pts each (170pts)
  - Chapter 1 & 2 reading assignment (30pts)
  - Class Projects: Some class time will be devoted to working on these projects
    - Scale Room project part I (50pts)
    - 3D Scale Room Model, Ground Plan and Sketch part II (100pts)
    - Black & White project (50pts each- total 100pts)
    - Master Painting project (50pts)
    - Costume Concept Collage (100pts)
    - Project Runway- group project (50pts)
  - Design critiques (2): Into the Woods & MavPlays 2015 (you will choose one complete evening to attend and write about) (25pts each)
  - Midterm Exam- will be submitted through Blackboard (100pts)
  - Final Project & Presentation (200pts)
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- A = 100% - 90.0%
  - B = 89.9% - 80.0%
  - C = 79.9% - 70.0%
  - D = 69.9% - 60.0%
  - F = 59.9% - 00.0%

**Students must arrive on time on test and presentation days. Students not arriving in the first 5 minutes of the class will receive a zero for the exam/presentation.** If a scheduled exam or presentation is missed it can only be made up if a doctor's excuse is presented no later than the start of the next class period **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**April 3, 2015 is the last day to drop classes for Spring 2015**

**Blackboard –**

The syllabus and other class information are available on Blackboard: <https://elearn.uta.edu>  
You will need your UTA user ID and password to access it.

**Electronic Communication Policy:** The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

To obtain your NetID or for logon assistance, visit <https://webapps.uta.edu/oit/selfservice/>. If you are unable to resolve your issue from the Self-Service website, contact the Helpdesk at [helpdesk@uta.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uta.edu).

**Lateness and Attendance Policy:**

Students arriving late to class will have until five (5) minutes after the starting time of the class to be added to the attendance list. Students arriving during the first five (5) minutes will be marked as late. If you arrive after the first five (5) minutes, you will be counted as absent for the day. You start the semester with 100 points for attendance. You lose 3 points every time you are counted as late and 10 points every time you are counted as absent (+5 minutes late or completely absent) without prior notice or verifiable doctor's excuse. Prior notice for university sponsored/approved absence must be given at least one week in advance.

- **More than six absences will result in the FAILURE OF THE CLASS at the instructor's discretion.**

If you are ill, miss class and present a doctor's statement attesting to your illness, then you may make up missed work. You are advised to drop this course if you are absent on a continuing basis.

**Grade Grievances:**

Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog. For undergraduate courses, see

[http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic\\_regulations.aspx#10](http://www.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#10)

**Drop Policy:**

Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

**Theatre Arts Attendance/Production Duty Policy:**

Students who fail to meet class attendance requirements may be removed from acting, directing, design, and/or stage management positions for the current semester's productions at the discretion of the department chair.

**Conferences/Auditions:****Procedures to Request Permission to Attend Approved Theatre Conferences, and/or Graduate School Admissions Auditions**

"Department of Theatre Arts majors are encouraged to participate in theatre conferences and certain auditions. However, Theatre Arts majors are required to submit an excused absence request to the instructor no less than two full weeks prior to the conference/audition in order for the instructor to consider granting an excused absence. Such notification must be in writing and support documentation will be required to verify the Theatre Arts major's attendance, completion and/or successful (or professionally worthwhile) participation in said conference or audition. All students are expected to complete all coursework (as stipulated in the syllabus) and all course requirements (as stipulated by the syllabus) in a timely manner (the term "timely manner" will be defined/specified by the instructor at the time the Theatre Arts major submits their excused absence request to the instructor for initial consideration). At the discretion of the instructor, class participation grades may be affected; therefore, Theatre Arts majors are advised to fully consult with the instructor prior to engaging in such activities." (v. 8/20/14)

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

### **Student Support Services Available**

UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

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### **Student Feedback Survey:**

At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

### **Final Review Week**

A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the back of the room. Take the stairs to your right to the first floor. Continue the to right or left in the main hallway to exit the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

## INTRO TO DESIGN SCHEDULE SPRING 2014- Subject to change

WEEK 1	WEEK 9 -
	3-23: Lighting Design - <b>upload photo of Master painting with distinctive lighting for approval to Blackboard</b> <b>READ Ch. 6 DiBenedetto – USITT Lighting Design handout</b>
1-20: Intro, syllabus The Theatre Designer's Job <b>Read Chap 1&amp;2 DiBenedetto – complete chapter quiz by 2-13 on Blackboard.</b>	3-25: work on ground plan for master painting using graph paper
1-22: Sketching to music. <b>Bring color pencils</b>	3-27: Creating a light key- angle, position, color
WEEK 2	WEEK 10
1-26: Elements of Design <b>Read Chap 3 DiBenedetto</b>	3-30: Sound Design basics <b>READ Ch. 7 DiBenedetto</b>
1-28: Elements of Design, con't	4-01: Script / character Analysis
1-30: Sketching- Using the elements of design	4-03: <b>Master Painting project due. Presentation – sound/music upload to Blackboard</b>
WEEK 3	WEEK 11 – MavPlays Tech
2-02: Principles of Composition	4-06: Costume Design- sketches/renderings/silhouette, fabrics, patterns/draping. <b>READ Ch. 5 DiBenedetto</b>
2-04: Principles of Composition, con't	4-08: Concept Costume design- <b>Please bring magazines to be cut up. If possible bring “old” (10+ years) magazines as well as new.</b>
2-06: Sketching: line drawings for B&W project- <b>bring black paper</b>	4-10: Project Runway Challenge- concept/ sketching ideas Work in class
WEEK 4	WEEK 12 – MavPlays open 4-14
2-09: Work on B&W project in class- <b>bring colored pencils</b>	4-13: <b>Concept Costume design due- present and discuss</b>
2-11: Work on B&W project in class- <b>bring colored pencils</b>	4-15: Script analysis- discuss poems for final project <b>Assign final project &amp; discuss</b>
2-13: <b>Present B&amp;W projects and discuss</b>	4-17: PRC: work in class
WEEK 5	WEEK 13 – UIL regional contest April 21-22
2-16: Scale- using the scale rule- <b>Assign room project bring scale ruler &amp; 1/4” graph paper</b>	4-20: <b>Present PRC projects- runway show</b>
2-18: The Design Process / Concept <b>READ Ch. 4 DiBenedetto</b>	4-22: UIL No class
2-20: Translating real life set to stage set- Ground plans / Theatrical spaces and types <b>Assign Scale room part II</b>	4-24: <b>Script Analysis due for Final project- upload to Blackboard</b> Work in class / ask questions about final project
WEEK 6- Into the Woods open 2-25	WEEK 14
2-23: Scenic Design: research, elevations, models <b>Scale room original room drawing due</b>	4-27: <b>Concept and Research Collage due for final project- present and discuss</b>
2-25: Work on Scale room ground plan	4-29: Continue research presentations and/or Work in class
2-27: Scale room white model- demo of materials and practice	5-01: work in class <b>MavPlays critique due by 5pm- submit to Blackboard</b>
WEEK 7-	WEEK 15-
3-02: Sketching your designs from ground plan- Perspective and other options	5-04: Work in class
3-04: Scale room model- work in class <b>Midterm review</b> <b>Into the Woods Critiques due by 5pm- submit to Blackboard</b>	5-06: Work in class
3-06: Michelle out of town – UIL design competition. <b>Midterm on Elements of Design &amp; Principles of Composition</b> midterm may be taken anywhere you have internet access <b>Midterm will be posted on Blackboard at 11am</b> <b>Midterm Exam- Due on Blackboard by 5pm</b>	5-08: Work in class
Spring Break March 9-13	
WEEK 8- USITT conference in Cincinnati, OH	Final Project presentation
3-16: <b>Scale room part II due</b> – presentations in class	Wednesday May 13, 2015 11:00am- 1:30pm
3-18: No Class - USITT	
3-20: No Class - USITT	

## Project Descriptions:

**Daily Sketches:** In the first five minutes of every class (that is not a presentation day), you will complete a sketch on a notecard. You will put your name and that day's date in the lower right corner. I will choose the sketch topic. These sketches will be collected at 11:05. You will receive 5 points for each sketch. You must start the sketch in the first 3 minutes of class to receive points. These cannot be made up.

**Black & White Project:** You will be given a line drawing that you will trace onto white and black drawing paper. You will then choose one color from your colored pencils and color the black/gray areas on white paper and the white/gray areas on black paper. You will be given time in class to work on these, but you may need to finish them at home. These will be presented and discussed in class.

**Scale Room Project, part I:** You will use your graph paper to create a scale drawing of a room at your home (not the bathroom). Put as much detail as possible- for example, include all furniture, piles of laundry, etc

**Scale Room Project, part II:** You will then use this room as the basis for a set design of that room (ground plan) with theatrical considerations and a concept. You will use your scale room design and create a sketch and a three-dimensional model of the space. These will be presented and discussed in class.

**Master Painting Project with Light and Sound:** You will choose a master painting that has distinctive lighting and will create a lighting plan and section view representing the location, angle, and color of instruments needed to recreate the scene found in the painting. You will then be asked to choose a piece of music to accompany the painting. These will be presented and discussed in class.

**Costume Concept Collage:** Using found texture/color (magazines/print) you will create a mixed media collage "costume design" that works within a given concept. You will not be allowed to simply cut out objects (clothing of any kind, bags, shoes, etc) and glue them together. Points will be given for originality and use of materials.

**Project Runway Challenge:** You will work in groups to create a costume made out of given materials. You will need to develop a concept and sketch the design before actually creating the costume for a member of the group- one member of the group will be the model. The presentation of designs will be done on the "runway" and will include an explanation of the concept

**Play Critiques-** you will be required to write a TWO-page critique for the two main stage productions offered this semester. These are Into the Woods & MavPlays 2015 (choose one of the three evenings). In these, you will critique **at least two** design areas and discuss how they relate (design elements and composition) to each other and the show as a whole. Consider how the designer uses the Elements of Design and Principles of Composition in their choices and whether you feel it is successful. Explain **why** something does or does not work. Do not simply say, "I liked it." What kind of emotional response do you get from the design? Is it appropriate to the play?

**Midterm Exam-** The midterm exam will cover the Elements of Design and Principles of Composition. It will primarily be short answer and essay questions and will include analyzing design and composition elements from images.

**Final Design Project:** You will read and analyze a given poem, develop a concept and create scenic, costume, lighting and sound designs for the poem.

- **Project requirements:**

- You will choose a poem from a given selection of poems and you will create the “world” of the poem.
- You will do a “script” analysis for the poem
- You will present a preliminary concept research collage for each area and discuss your concept with the class.
- **Design area requirements:**
  - Scenic: you will create a scale ground plan, pencil sketch and ½” scale model of your design. The theatre ground plan will be given to you.
  - Lighting: you will create a lighting key and choose three color images that suggest the mood and/or atmosphere for your overall design
  - Costume: you will create at least two color renderings for the characters in the poem. Each rendering should be on 11x14 paper and should fill the page
  - Sound: you will find and/or create at least two pieces of music and two sound effects that supports your concept and the poem. Sound can be played back during the presentation on your choice of device, however, you must upload the sounds to Blackboard for grading purposes.

**The final project presentation (during finals week) will include a re-stating of your concept (including research collage) as well as presentation of each design area and how your choices reflect your concept. More specific information will be given later in the semester.**