

Basic Stagecraft

TPA 1200C SYLLABUS

CRN: 27756

Location for class meetings: 2-164C

Instructor: Sonia Pasqual

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Course Meeting Times: Every - Monday and Wednesday, 5:30pm -7:45pm begins January 11 – May 1, 2016.

Syllabi Location: Blackboard under course CRN 27756

External website for additional use: <http://www.itsallaboutthelight.weebly.com> created by Sonia Pasqual

Catalog Description:

Basic Stagecraft - 4 credits

Focuses on techniques of scenic construction, installation and budgeting, using hands-on assignments to compliment lectures. Topics include interpreting drawings, tool use, material selection, painting and safety. (Special Fee: \$72)

Prerequisites/co-requisites: None

Valencia Student Core Competencies:

Core Competencies of a Valencia Graduate -

- Think, Communicate, Value and Act
- Valencia's Student Core Competencies are complex abilities that are essential to lifelong success. This course will help you develop and demonstrate the abilities to (1) think clearly, critically, and creatively; (2) communicate with others verbally and in written form; (3) make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments; and (4) act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.
Many problems and activities will be presented in the context of stagecraft. These problems and activities will require students to select appropriate information from the problem and communicate effectively how to arrive at an appropriate solution.

Course Objectives:

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

- Use hand and power tools commonly found in theater scene shops.
- Read working drawings and construct scenery from them.
- Communicate in a professional manner about stagecraft.
- Choose the appropriate materials, techniques and hardware for scenic construction.
- Select appropriate stage equipment for shifting applications.
- Construct common two and three-dimensional scenery used for theatrical purposes.
- Construct properties used in theatrical productions.
- Demonstrate enlarging techniques used in painting scenery.
- Demonstrate application techniques used in painting scenery.
- Prepare paint mixtures to standards acceptable for painting scenery.

Learning Activities:

Students will take part in lecture, discussion and demonstration sessions dealing with the practice of stagecraft. Students will participate in scenery construction lab sessions in which they will complete assigned stagecraft projects. To supplement these activities, readings from the texts will be assigned.

Learning Materials Required:

Scene Design and Stage Lighting 10th Ed., by R. Craig Wolf and Dick Block (**Note: This textbook is required for 3 courses, TPA1200C, TPA 2220C, & TPA2010C do not get rid of the textbook until you have taken these courses**). \$170.00 or less.

Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information, by Paul Carter (BSH) - In addition to the texts, students will be required to bring tools and materials for the completion of projects.

Classroom supplies: Notebook paper, pencil, pen and a notebook or folder to keep and organize handouts/notes.

Tool Kit: This is not an optional item. This tool kit will be used and added to in several other TPA courses. Please make sure all your tools, gloves, goggles, etc. are marked with your name so they won't be confused with tools that belong to someone else.

***Required tool kit items:**

- Clear or Yellow Safety Goggles/Glasses
- 25' Tape Measure (**do not** buy one with a tenths scale)
- Architect's scale ruler
- Hair tie is mandatory to pull back those with long hair.

***Optional items:**

- Toolbox/bag/belt in which to carry them
- *Work Gloves and earplugs (optional)*
- *A multi-tool, such as a Gerber or a Leatherman, is highly recommended*

Methods of Evaluation: Very important information!! Read carefully!

***Attendance & Participation - 25 %**

After the first absence, the attendance grade will be lowered one letter grade for each absence and a ½ letter grade for each tardy. 2 tardy = 1 absence. You may be withdrawn from the class after 3 absences. You must contact me immediately via email or phone to discuss this. **Otherwise, you will be automatically withdrawn.**

***Projects and All Assignments - 25 %**

Including flats, steps and paint project, worksheets as well as other homework.

***Prop project - 15 %**

You will research, design, document and construct a prop and or a prop board for a theater production.

***Test (total of 4) - 15 %**

May be in class or take home and may be given with or without warning. Keep all of your tests and hand outs to study for the *Final Exam**

***Final Exam - 20 % (Final Exam is on Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30pm)**

The test will cover material presented in lecture, lab and from the textbooks. Test are a mix of true or false, multiple choice and or drawing or identification. The final exam will be cumulative of Test 1 through Test 4.

All tests and or quizzes, same thing, will be graded on a percentage of correct answers. The divisions will be as follows:

A = 90% – 100%

B = 80% – 89 %

C = 70% – 79 %

D = 60% – 69 %

F = 59% and below.

Withdrawal from the class: Per Valencia Policy 4-07 (Academic Progress, Course Attendance and Grades, and Withdrawals), a student who withdraws from class before the withdrawal deadline of **April 1, 2016 by 11:59p.m.**, will receive a grade of "W." A student is not permitted to withdraw after the withdrawal deadline. **A faculty member MAY withdraw a student up to the beginning of the final exam period for violation of the class attendance policy.** A student who is withdrawn by faculty for violation of the class attendance policy will receive a grade of "W." Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F." For a complete policy and procedure overview on Valencia Policy 4-07 please go to:

<http://valenciacc.edu/generalcounsel/policydetail.cfm?RecordID=75>

Drop/Refund Deadline: January 19, 2016 by 11:59p.m

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 27 at 5:30p.m

Rules of the Class:

Notes: If the instructor is writing it on the board, you should be writing it down to. *Hint. You will be seeing it again. Always take notes from the board.

Attendance: It is strongly recommended that you attend all classes and laboratory sessions. This is an activity class, which means that much of the course material is presented through hands-on-projects and in-class discussion and demonstrations. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class. It is the **responsibility of the student** to find out from other students what was missed, as well as copy any notes that may have been taken. After the first absence, each absence will drop your attendance grade 1 letter grade. After 3 absences, you may be withdrawn. Regardless of your excuse (reason), an absence is still an absence. There is no such thing as an excused absence. Failure to maintain adequate attendance will result in a lower grade and possible withdrawal from the course.

****If you arrive late, you will be marked late, yes 1 minute late is late. ***Twice being late will count as 1 Absence towards the acceptable absence limit.** The entertainment industry has an extremely low tolerance for lateness. If you are late it is **your responsibility** to see me after class to assure that you receive credit for attending and you are marked, LATE.

Make-up policy: No make-up for Test and or Final Exam. Project Assignments make-up work will NOT be accepted after **April 22, 2016 by 5pm.**

Academic Honesty: All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at Valencia Community College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a testing situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. Any student determined by the professor to have been guilty of engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties as determined by the professor. These penalties may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course. For further detail, refer to the Student Code of Conduct in the current Valencia Student Handbook.

No student is allowed to do another student's work or help them to get their project completed. Be it a former student of the class or a current student. All work is done individually. The instructor, Valencia's Theatre Technical Director or the Lab Assistant's may help off course. But keep in mind, only the instructor is creating the Test's, so what other's may adopt or tell you will probably not be on the Test. Double check with your instructor on questions or concerns.

Group Projects: Project groups will be assigned during the term. Group grades will be assigned for in-class projects. In other words, all members of the group will receive the same grade. If a group member is not fully contributing to group activities, group members may, in consultation with the instructor, fire the non-participating individual who then becomes a group of one. This can be implemented especially for the paint project.

Daily equipment: Students are required to have all the needed materials for the days' work with them at the beginning of class. Failure to do so will result in a lowering of the project grade for that day and possible dismissal from the class session.

Cell Phones, Calculators, MP3 players, tablet computers and Laptops: Cell phones and all gadgets are to be silent or on off and shall not be answered or responded to during class activities. During lab time you may answer and/or respond to an emergency call outside of the shop area. Earphones or ear buds **will not be necessary or tolerated at any time, full alertness and awareness of your surroundings is vital.** Laptop and Tablet computers may be used for note taking purposes only, (no offense wallpapers will be tolerated). Calculators may be used when needed to double check your projects, not used during quizzes. Video and audio recording of the class without permission from the professor is prohibited. If permission is given for video or audio recording of a class, the recording is for the personal use of the students only. Posting of such recordings online is strictly prohibited. Use of these devices in class other than mentioned above shall be considered a disruption of class and the student will be dismissed from the class session. Two dismissals from class will result in a final grade of an "F". Please see section IV of the Student Code of Conduct.

Safety at All Times: For the lab portions of this class you will be expected to observe certain safety rules. These include:

- **Wear** proper clothing, including closed toe shoes.
 - **Wear** eye protection when using power tools.
 - **Do not** use a piece of equipment until you have been trained to use it by a VC Entertainment Design and Technology staff or faculty person.
 - **Follow** the safety rules of each machine.
 - **Use** each tool as it was designed.
 - **Do not** block access to any safety equipment, fire extinguisher or exit.
 - **Do not** bring any hazardous, toxic or combustible material into the backstage areas.
 - **Use common sense** when working in the theatre. Common sense utilizes not putting other's in danger, no playing around, not being careless or destructive... If not, be aware of your surroundings at all times.
- Repeated failure to observe any safety rules will result in your not being allowed to complete the lab portions of this class. A Grade of F in the course will be the result!!!**

Students with disabilities:

"Students with disabilities who qualify for academic accommodations must provide a Notification to Instructor (NTI) form from the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and discuss specific needs with the professor, preferably during the first two weeks of class. The Office for Students with Disabilities determines accommodations based on appropriate documentation of disabilities. Please contact 407-582-2229 for more information."

Free Help, Take Advantage of It:

Valencia College is interested in making sure all our students have a rewarding and successful college experience. To that purpose, Valencia students can get immediate help with issues dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, adjustment difficulties, substance abuse, time management as well as relationship problems dealing with school, home or work. BayCare Behavioral Health Student Assistance Program (SAP) services are free to all Valencia students and available 24 hours a day by calling (800) 878-5470. Free face-to-face counseling is also available.

Disclaimer:

This syllabus is a **contract between you the student and the course instructor**. By your attendance in this class you are agreeing to the terms and conditions of this syllabus. Changes in the syllabus and/or schedule may be made at any time during the term by the professor. A revised syllabus may be issued at the discretion of the professor.