Technical Production Studio/Advanced Studio
CLASS: THR 575 / 675

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“Technical skill is mastery of complexity while creativity is mastery of simplicity.” - E.C. Zeeman

Course content:
This class provides a laboratory experience in the planning, execution and running of a production in the areas of scenery, lights, sounds, or props. It utilizes the skills and techniques taught in more formal classes and demands a “hands on” approach. Students will be assigned duties similar to ones found in a regional theatre (stage carpenter, properties artisan, electrician, sound technician, etc.) and will be expected to execute the duties associated with those titles.

Faculty and staff will be leading the production process and functioning in traditional roles such as Technical Director, Lighting Designer, Master Carpenter and may utilize students in an “assistant” capacity. Some students may be given the opportunity to function in management level positions as determined on an individual basis by supervising faculty.

This class emphasizes the importance of working collaboratively and creatively in the artistic process of producing the technical elements on stage that are safe for actors and crew, supportive and sensitive to the text, and satisfactory to the directors and designers’ vision. We work as artists with a common goal- the successful opening and run of our shows. We work to build the show within stated budgets and to have the show ready for technical rehearsals in support of bringing all the elements of production and performance together before opening to allow several “runs” with all production elements completed. The job isn’t done until the show is ready to open in all areas. If your assigned area has completed activities you are expected to check with the other areas and offer to lend a hand. If you are on run crew in a management position responsible for run notes, your job goes until the show closes. We all will work to have efficient and safe strikes.

What we do in Studio is what you are preparing to do as your career. It’s important. Bring your passion, your commitment, and your willingness to work and learn.

Class meeting time:
CLASS MODE – Monday thru Thursday 2-5pm
PRODUCTION MODE - Monday thru Thursday 2-5pm and 6-9 pm or until end of tech. rehearsal / released. Two Saturdays during each production period will have 9-5pm calls. All possible calls are listed on the online production calendar (access information below). The production calendar is dynamic and changes regularly. Check it often. It is your responsibility to know when and where you are supposed to be for calls. If in doubt, please double-check with your supervising faculty member. Work calls during production mode are mandatory and missing an afternoon, evening or Saturday calls will result in a significantly lower grade thereby possibly resulting in discontinuation in the BFA.

Per the University’s requirements for informing you of the expectations of time investment necessary to achieve the learning goals of the course in accordance with the campus credit hour policy: (Average Student Investment of Time Expectation), this is a four-credit class meeting in a standard week for twelve face-to-face hours. Once we move to “production mode” weeks the total increases to a minimum of thirty-two face-to-face hours in a week. (2-5pm, 6-9pm M-R, 9-5 Sat) If you are assigned a position at a management or assistant level, you will find a 3-9 hours weekly of “homework” investment is needed to successfully complete your organizational, research, shopping, drafting, and/or hands-on project work and your “in-class” time will exceed the thirty-two hours with the addition of required technical/dress rehearsal coverage.

Class location:  The class is held in the Fine Arts Theatre, Studio Theatre, rehearsal spaces, the scene shop, electrics shop, the prop shops, and any other shop or area which is required to successfully complete the work at hand.

Textbook:  None
**Safety:** It is the student’s responsibility to insure his or her own personal safety and comfort in all work in this class. The use of power tools, machinery, and specialized work processes are required in this class. Safe work practices and an understanding of how equipment operates is critical. Anyone not comfortable at any time with the use of a product or a work process should immediately speak to the supervising faculty or staff member and other options can be explored or coaching set-up to allow for adequate preparation.

**Supervision by faculty/staff.** During Studio calls, at least one faculty or staff member is assigned to supervise the lab. Do not expect that the supervising faculty or staff member will have expertise in the area you are assigned. Studio is the chance for the students to explore their own creative process. Faculty supervisors will be working in the various shops or studios closest to their specialty. However, as theatre artists all of the faculty and staff have working understandings of all the areas and you should seek them out for guidance and assistance regardless of their specialty.

**Grades:** Grading a class such as Studio is subjective at best. Faculty and staff expect the shops to function as a professional work environment layered into the learning process. To that end, grades are determined by the subjective evaluation of the student’s work process and learning. Faculty and staff will be monitoring and assessing:

- On time and engaged attendance at all calls and studio times.
- Effective and focused use of time assigned to a job
- Working in a collaborative and supportive manner with colleagues and supervisory personnel
- Demonstrating consistent and appropriate tool usage
- Demonstrating safe and appropriate work processes
- Demonstrating creative initiative in the work process
- Communicating in a clear and appropriate manner
- Actively engaged in “hands-on” creative learning processes to build technical skills

(A) Consistently is engaged and functioning at a high level in all areas of assessment.
(B) Is engaged and functioning at a moderate level in all areas of assessment or functioning at a high level in some but lacking in others.
(C) Meeting only the minimum standard of functioning in areas of assessment
(D) Partially meeting some minimum standard of functioning in some areas of assessment
(F) Unsuccessful in meeting any appropriate level of assessment

Please see Department of Theatre Class Policy sheet for additional information about adding/dropping classes, academic misconduct, appeal procedures, religious observances, etc. University class policies are available at: [http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf](http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf)

**UWM PSOA Department of Theatre Calendar Access**

The UWM PSOA Department of Theatre production schedules are available through Google Calendar. The schedule is broken out into 3 calendars.

- **UWM Theatre Production Calls** includes all the call times for events that involve the Technical Theatre Production departments. It is especially important to students fulfilling Studio and Stagecraft lab assignments.
- **UWM Theatre Events** shows an overview of events taking place within the department as well as Book In, Musical Theatre, Dance and Labworks events that affect the use of our theatre and support spaces.
- **UWM Theatre Rehearsal** shows rehearsal events within the performance departments (i.e., Acting) that affect the use of our theatre and support spaces.

The UWM Theatre Production Calls and UWM Theatre Events schedules are managed by Chris Guse <cjg0001@uwm.edu>. The UWM Theatre Rehearsal schedule is managed by Jessica Berlin-Krivsky <berlin@uwm.edu>.

**The schedule will be dynamically updated on the fly without notice.** If you subscribe to the schedules (see below) make sure that you are refreshing your calendars regularly. Being up to date is critical to the function of the production departments.
To subscribe to the schedules:
Click on the appropriate link below - your default calendar application may open and prompt you to create a new calendar to send the events to. If your calendar application does not automatically add the new calendar, open your calendar software and select the option to "subscribe" to a calendar. The option might be known as *Open By URL* (i.e. Google Calendar) or *Add Calendar by Address*. This option is located in different places in different software: Copy the link below for the calendar you wish to subscribe to and paste it into the URL field provided. NOTE: Adjust the options to suit your tastes.

URL’s for subscriptions (copy & paste):

**UWM Theatre Production Calls:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/5sgt9282igcuk9mpdfqverdl40%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

**UWM Theatre Events:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/eupmbhgfi3i62moj4tkjdhe7uo%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

**UWM Theatre Rehearsal:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/fanrtu5b0i1lq21heibinabq44%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic.ics

These calendars can also be viewed in a standard web browser (click on the link, or copy/paste into your browser’s address bar):

**UWM Theatre Production Calls:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=5sgt9282igcuk9mpdfqverdl40%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

**UWM Theatre Events:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=eupmbhgfi3i62moj4tkjdhe7uo%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

**UWM Theatre Rehearsal:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fanrtu5b0i1lq21heibinabq44%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago

Should your calendar application require an XML file:

**UWM Theatre Production Calls:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/5sgt9282igcuk9mpdfqverdl40%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic

**UWM Theatre Events:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/eupmbhgfi3i62moj4tkjdhe7uo%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic

**UWM Theatre Rehearsal:**
https://www.google.com/calendar/feeds/fanrtu5b0i1lq21heibinabq44%40group.calendar.google.com/public/basic