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

CHRIS GUSE Office: T276 Email: cng0001@uwm.edu Audio/Video/Technical Direction
STEVE WHITE Office: T254 Email: swhite@uwm.edu Lighting/Design
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Course content:
This class provides a laboratory experience in the planning and execution of a production event in one or more technically focused areas. It utilizes the skills and techniques taught in non-laboratory classes in practical application. Students are assigned duties and responsibilities associated with a professional job description and are assessed on their execution of the required activities.

Faculty and staff lead the production process and regularly function in traditional roles such as Technical Director, Lighting Designer and Shop Manager. They work directly with the students throughout the process.

This class emphasizes the importance of working collaboratively and creatively in the artistic process of producing technical elements on stage that are safe for actors and crew, supportive and sensitive to the text, and satisfy director and designer vision. We work collaboratively toward a focused, common goal: successful storytelling through cohesive and consistent performances. We execute production events from their inception through to the final performance and strike within the allocated funding, time and human resources.

This experience is specifically designed to prepare students for post-degree career activities. It is critical to the educational process and requires passion, commitment and a willingness to engage and learn.

At the forefront of this curriculum is safety training as it relates to the operation of fabrication machinery, powered tools and hand tools. Hazardous materials, hot work and fire safety protocols are stressed. Body awareness and use of fall arrest systems, personnel lifts and ladders are included. Each student will be issued a Check Out Badge. These badges must be worn prominently at all times the student is engaged in classwork, lab or production. As they progress through the safety and use portions of the curriculum, color-coded (see attached key) stickers will be awarded. They are only to be affixed to the badge as directed by an instructor. This color coding not only serves as a quick indicator of what safe practice procedures the student has been trained in, but also satisfies University health and safety requirements.

Class/Lab meeting times (Calls):
REGULAR LAB: Monday > Thursday 2-5pm Throughout the semester enrolled
PRODUCTION LABS:
- Monday 10/21 > Thursday 10/24, 6-9 pm. (INTR)
- Monday 10/28, 6-10pm (INTR)
- Monday 11/18 > Friday 11/22, 6-10pm (WHSTF)
BUILD/LOAD Days:
- Saturday 10/12, Saturday 10/26 & Saturday 11/22

Production and Rehearsal Calls for In the Next Room and the WI High School Theatre Festival as required by the student’s assigned roles and activities. See Guse for scenic and sound related activities, White for Lighting and Design related activities and McHenry for Prop related activities.

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 the student’s responsibility to know when and where required calls are taking place. All calls mandatory. Absence and/or lack of punctuality will result in reduction of the end of semester grade. Labs may be cancelled or shortened if engagement exceeds available activities. Labs may be added if needed activities exceed engagement.

Class location: The class meets at the beginning of lab in the T90 Scenery Studio and then disburses to various locations as needed. These locations may be off the main campus.
Expectations of time investment:
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 1-4 variable credit course. 4 credits require class meetings in a standard week for 12 face-to-face hours minimum. During production mode weeks, the total increases to a minimum of 32 face-to-face hours in a week. (2-5pm, 6-9pm M-R, 9-5 Sat) If the student is assigned a position requiring management, leadership and/or design duties, 3-9 hours weekly time investment outside of class/call times is expected to successfully complete the organizational, research, procurement, drafting, and/or hands-on project work.

Personal Safety: It is the student’s responsibility to insure their own personal safety as they engage in the course’s activities. 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, equipment or process should immediately speak to the supervising faculty or staff member. Other options will be explored and/or additional training arranged.

Supervision by Faculty/Staff. During Studio calls, at least one faculty member, staff member, or student employee is assigned to supervise the lab. The supervisor may not have expertise in the area the student is assigned. Studio provides for 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 disciplines and students should seek them out for guidance and assistance regardless of specialty.

Grades: Studio grading is based on observation of the student as they engage in activities and evaluation of their progress and result. The production areas function as a professional work environment layered into the learning process. Faculty and staff will be monitoring and assessing:

- On time and engaged attendance at all work 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

Attendance is mandatory. Absences falling under established University Policy. Missed sessions without negotiation or notification will result in failure of the course. Students are expected to treat Studio as they would a professional occupation. Engagement in the activities is not possible without attendance - see above grading rubric and class/lab meeting times (calls).

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)

UWM PSOA Department of Theatre Calendar Access

The UWM PSOA Department of Theatre is available through the student’s Microsoft Office 365 subscription. The name of the calendar will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

The schedule will be dynamically updated without notice. Make sure that you are refreshing your calendars regularly. Being up to date is critical to the function of the production departments.