

DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Course: Stagecraft

Fall 2009

Teachers: Nicole Leonard & Timothy O'Connell
Classroom: Room 116 and Theater
Office Hours: MWF by appointment
Telephone: 202-298-1777 x. 2670

Course requirements:

Required Text: No textbook. Handouts provided, as well as, regular computer research & assignments.
Equipment: Pens
Pencil
Paper
Architect's Scale Ruler (Staples, Office Depot, Target, etc.)

Major Course Outcomes / Policy Statement:

Upon completion of guided study in Stagecraft, each student should:

1. Understand & explain the history of technical theater and the affiliations/unions associated with it.
2. Be able to write and verbalize the basic terms & components of theater.
3. Possess a working knowledge of the collaborative process, as well as, the technical & artistic staff involved in producing theater.
4. Be able to read a script and give a breakdown of the necessary elements (scenic, property, costumes, sound, lighting, etc) needed in mounting a production.
5. Read and articulate scale drawings and lighting plots.
6. Demonstrate technical crew responsibilities and skills in working on a crew for a production.
7. Be able to explain the producing process for a theatrical production.
8. Be able to assess competently, using the language of the art, the design packages for a realized production.

This course is designed to give the student an introduction and overview to the craft of theatrical production. Through guided exercises and assignments, you will be able to understand and use theatrical terms, gain hands on experience and develop a process for putting thoughts on paper and into action. Do not let inhibitions or other negatives stand in your way. We only learn from doing. We hope you will impress yourself with the quality of work you are capable of by the end of the semester.

Class Activities:

Class is discussion based. Participation in class discussion is essential for full credit. Examples will be provided in the form of handouts when required.

Computer Work: Each student will be assigned projects that require the use and working knowledge of a computer.

Problem Solving: you will be presented with a series of challenges possibly faced by jobs in theater. You will come up with, and present your solution in class.

Examinations:

There will be a several quizzes and a final project. You will be graded on your accurate, timely and thorough completion of assigned duties. There will be **no** make-up tests, or projects.

Evaluation:

Attendance	200 pts	1000 – 900	=A - - High Pass
Discussion/projects	500 pts	899 – 800	=B - - Pass
Final Project	200 pts	799 – 700	=C - - Low Pass
Discipline/Ethics/Attitude	<u>100 pts</u>	699 – 600	=D - - No Pass
Total	1000 pts	599 – 0	=F - - Failing

NOTE:

Most portions of the grading in this class will be subjective. THAT IS THE NATURE OF THE ART. We will be looking at your dedication to the work. In the Art of Theatre, discipline is the first basic requirement. Attitude closely follows. The success of this class will be gauged on daily participation. Daily assignments will not be made up, nor will we go over the missed project. Do not ask.

Attendance Policy:

Theatre Discipline (ethics) requires all people working in theatre to develop habits that are consistent with the acceptable standards of the profession. You are required to be on time at all class meetings. Further, you are expected to be positive and enthusiastic about the work you are doing. Finally, you are expected to leave all baggage at the door. When you are here, you are HERE.

NOTE: If you plan on working in theatre, absence or lateness to a "call" means you will not be working for that company again. Remember that the theatre world is a small one, and everybody talks to everybody. The working habits you develop now will have a great deal to do with your survival and success later!

Plagiarism / Cheating Policy:

Proven cheating, sharing work or plagiarism, however slight, on any paper, project, or class assignment, will result in a FAILING grade for the course.

Special Conditions:

If you have dust allergies or are afraid of heights, please let the instructor know ASAP.

Stagecraft: Calendar

September

- History of technical theater
- Basic terms and vocabulary of theater
- Reading a ground plan and using a scale rule

October

- Organization Chart (how they work together)
- The different organization and union affiliations
- The role of the Stage and Production Manager

November & December

- Breaking down the script
- Final Project & Presentations Due

Instructors reserve the right to change the calendar & syllabus, as necessary, based on the needs of the class.