

**DUKE ELLINGTON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS  
TECHNICAL DESIGN & PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT**

**STAGECRAFT I & II**

Instructor: Robin Y. Harris

**COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

**Stagecraft I (QT1)**

This is the first course in the Duke Ellington Technical Theater career pathway. This sequence of courses prepares students for a career in the technical theater industry. Students are introduced to the process by which scenery, lighting, and audio are planned, coordinated, and built to support the playwright's and director's visions and concepts. Students will create scenic design models.

**Stagecraft II (QT2)**

This is the second course in the Duke Ellington Technical Theater career pathway. This sequence of courses prepares students for a career in the technical theater industry. Students will expand their general understanding of basic stagecraft and practices.

**COURSE OUTCOMES and OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the school year, the student should be able to:

- Converse in the vocabulary of the discipline.
- Understand theatre history as it relates to the physical facility of the theater to include art and architecture.
- Understand the principles of scenic elements, scenic units, construction/fabrication, and design.
- Make connections among disciplines of study
- Read critically
- Recognize the differences among fact, opinions, and judgements
- Express aesthetic critique and insight
- Solicit feedback, evaluate and revise creative products

**METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

Lecture and Discussion  
Demonstration and Illustration  
Printed Materials

**COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. Brief Theatre History (Ancient, Greek, Roman and Renaissance)
- II. Performance Spaces and Functions (Arena, Proscenium, Thrust, and Black Box)
- III. Common Stage Elements
- IV. Scenic Units & Resources (Flats, Doors, Platforms, Drops, and Properties)
- V. Design
  - A. The Role of the Designer
  - B. The Functions of Scenery
  - C. Scenic Design Process

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING

**Participation** (10%). This includes punctuality; professionalism/respect; constructive comments and opinions; use of appropriate terminology; thoughtful criticisms; attentiveness; and class discussions.

**Practice & Application** (Total 50%). This includes student journals; written responses; research; individual and group tasks; home assignments; and presentations.

**Assessments** (Total 40%). This includes quizzes; student product; cumulative tasks, projects/ portfolios; performance tasks; compositions; and unit tests.

## GRADING SCALE

The course will be graded on a combined point system (for exams and quizzes) and an evaluation system (for assignments and projects), plus any extra credits earned. Grading will correlate with the following:

### POINT SYSTEM:

<b>A</b>	93 - 100	<b>B+</b>	87 - 89	<b>C+</b>	77 - 79	<b>D+</b>	67 - 69	<b>Pass</b>	10 pts		
<b>A-</b>	90 - 92	<b>B</b>	83 - 86	<b>C</b>	73 - 76	<b>D</b>	64 - 66			<b>Fail</b>	0 pts
		<b>B-</b>	80 - 82	<b>C-</b>	70 - 72	<b>F</b>	63 and below				

### PASS or FAIL SYSTEM:

### EVALUATION POINT SYSTEM

<b>A+</b>	<b>5 pts</b>	Exceptional	Earning an "A+" means the student has exceeded advanced understanding and exceeds assignment and project expectations, demonstrating academically superior skills and innovation in that specific area.
<b>A</b>	<b>4 pts</b>	Excellent	Earning an "A" means the student has exhibited advanced understanding and exceeds assignment and project expectations, demonstrating academically superior skills in that specific area. An "A" is difficult to obtain and indicates unusually high achievement.
<b>B</b>	<b>3 pts</b>	Very Good	Earning a "B" means the student has exhibited proficient understanding and meets assignment and project expectations. A student receiving a "B" is right on track with the courses high academic expectations. A "B" is something to be celebrated!
<b>C</b>	<b>2 pts</b>	Good / Satisfactory / Ok	Earning a "C" means the student has exhibited basic understanding and partially meets assignment and project expectations. A student receiving a "C" understands the basic concept or skill, but has not yet reached the proficient level.
<b>D</b>	<b>1 pt</b>	Unsatisfactory	Earning a "D" means the student has exhibited minimal understanding and does not meet assignment and project expectations.
<b>F</b>	<b>0 pts</b>	Unacceptable	Earning a "F" means the student has failed to exhibit minimal understanding and does not meet assignment and project expectations.

## ATTENDANCE IMPACT ON GRADE

- Grade reduction for 5 unexcused absences in a quarter.
- Automatic “FA” for 10 unexcused absences in a quarter.
- Automatic “F” for 30 unexcused absences in a year.

## **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. All work must be neat and turned in on time. Work that is late or in an improper form **MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED!**
- B. The student must attend **ALL** class meetings. It is the responsibility of the student to clear all absences with the instructor.
- C. Students who miss an examination, quiz or assignment must present a signed and dated official excuse (such as one from a physician or a DESA administrator) and schedule to complete the missed work within one week after returning to class.
- D. The instructor reserves the right to consult with others to determine the student's performance on an assignment.
- E. The instructor reserves the right to modify the course content and direction, as well as method of evaluation, if circumstances prove this necessary. The students will be given ample notice if any changes are needed.
- F. No cheating will be tolerated! All tests and assignments are to be your work, and any quoting or borrowing of ideas of others **MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED**, and properly denoted.

**\*This Syllabus is subject to change.**

**(REVISED 8/16/18)**