# THEATRE PRODUCTION LAB

**THEA 2100**  
**Fall ’14**  
**Section 1**  
**F 2:00-4:30 pm**  
**Warren Theatre, CA 102**

**Instructor**  
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**Chair**  
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**Objective:**

Students will have the opportunity to participate as a member of the production team. Either as a member of the preproduction crew or a member of the run crew, students will develop the skills necessary to bring quality productions to the stage. Critical thinking, conflict resolution, leadership, and problem solving are some of the skills that will be earned through taking this course. As students advance in this course, the greater the responsibility that will be presented to them.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

1. The student will learn to manage their own time better, problem solve, quickly and efficiently handle any crisis, and meet difficult challenges as they arise in the creative, sometimes chaotic world that is theatre production.

2. The student will develop their technical skills based on hands on experience with technical theatre equipment ranging from basic to advanced.

3. The student will learn all about safety and safety equipment. Respect and care for the facilities in which the student will be spending a majority of their time will be achieved.

4. The student will learn how the various technical shops and production areas operate. They will eventually gain the skills and knowledge to organize and run those shops as a leader, foreman, crew head, manager, director, etc.

5. The student will learn to thrive on the collaborative and interdisciplinary process that goes into mounting a production.

6. The student will learn to always be early, always present, and ready so that can be a functioning member of the production team.

7. The students work to become the next leaders; serving their peers, promoting change and growth that will consistently better the department and productions.

8. The student will help chart the road to the future of our department.

9. Students will learn if students are willing.
**Attendance:**
Every Friday, there will be a department meeting in the Warren Theatre starting at 2 pm that may last up to, but not exceed, 4:30 pm. Each student enrolled in a Production Lab is required to attend the department meeting. Roll will be taken every Friday starting at 2 pm. Each student gets 2 unexcused absences. After that, for every meeting the student does not attend, without an excused absence, a full letter grade will be dropped from their final grade. More than 3 unexcused will result in a failure of the course.

Also for this class, students will be assigned to work in one shop area (scenery, props, costumes, lighting & sound) or be assigned to Front of House (FOH)/Public Relations (PR). Students enrolled in this course are required to work 30 hours for the semester (3 hours/wk). FOH/PR may work more than 30 hours. Each student is required to sign up for a weekly time to work in their respected shop at the majors and minors meeting. This is a commitment from the student, agreeing to come in at that time every week. Each week the student does not come in at that time, and does not clear it with their supervisor, it will count as an unexcused absence.

**Strike:**
Students are required to attend and contribute to one of two strikes.  
The Winter’s Tale – October 23rd  
SFB – November 19th  
There will be a sign up sheet for each. There will also be a sign in & out sheet at each strike.  
*Note: If assigned to FOH/PR crew, after your strike assignment is finished in your area, you should report Kevin before being excused from strike.

**Working In a Shop:**
Students will be assigned to a specific shop/area for their production lab assignment. Every week, students will come in and work for 3 hours. Hours can be scheduled in 3 hour blocks or in two 1.5 hour blocks, twice a week. Each shop/area comes with a supervisor(s) that you will report to for work during your lab hours.

**Shop/Area Supervisors:**
Scenery/Props/Paint - Kevin Loeffler & Jesse Gonzalez  
Costumes/Make-up - Rosa Lazaro  
Lighting & Sound - Philip Johnson  
FOH/PR - Olivia Ross  
Shop work is graded by hours and efficient use of time. The supervisor for each shop/area will determine efficient use of time while working in the shop. Students are expected to work diligently on their assigned tasks each time they are working. If a student does not come in through out the semester at their set time, they will be given an unexcused absence for each day. After 3 unexcused absences, the student will fail the course.

*Hours worked on any run crew, strikes and any work in other shops will not be used toward your 30 hours.*
Running a Show:
Students assigned to a running crew (minimum 1 show) will be required to keep track of their hours. Run crew members will also be required to sign in and out for each performance with the stage manager for each show, every night the run crew is called. Run crew members are obligated to run any necessary technical / dress rehearsals and performances as needed. Run crew schedules will be distributed by the stage manager for each show. If a student fails to attend any necessary calls for their run crew, this will result in a failure of the course.

Front of House / P.R.:
Students assigned to FOH/PR (minimum 2 shows) will be required to keep track of their hours. Students on these crews are obligated to watch final dress & run any necessary performances needed. FOH/PR schedules will be distributed by Olivia Ross. If a student fails to attend any necessary calls for their assignment, this will result in a failure of the course. *Note: If assigned to FOH/PR crew, after your strike assignment is finished in your area, you should report Kevin before being excused from strike.

Paper:
All students will be required to write a paper 1000 words minimum (double spaced, 12pt font). This paper will be a reflection paper, telling good and bad experiences. You will also have a separate coversheet, which includes the following information: Name, Production Area (or Shop), Duty/Title, Production lab number (1101, 2100, 3100, 2101, 3101). Failure to write a paper is an automatic grade drop and could result in an F for this course. Your paper serves as proof that you did the work in the production lab. I will accept the papers as a hard copy, as an email attachment or on Blackboard.

Grading:
Grades will be determined based on the following criteria: attendance (at the Friday meetings and your weekly shop time), strike participation, assigned crew work and the final paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Lab Hours</td>
<td>25 pts./hr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>20 pts./wk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike</td>
<td>190 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crew Assignment</td>
<td>Full Letter Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1600 pts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Grading Break Down
A= 1600 – 1501
B= 1500 – 1401
C= 1400 – 1301
D= 1300 – 1201
F= 1200 – 0
General Classroom / Lab Rules:

Turn OFF Cell Phones. If I see them out for texting, talking, etc. I will confiscate them until the end of class. Don’t even take them out to use it as a clock.

Turn off cell phones before reporting for class or lab hours.

Appropriate computer usage only.

The scene shop does NOT permit iPods, MP3 player, Portable CD Players, etc. If music is to be played for shop hours, it will be through supervisor control. These devices are not permitted in other shops, or backstage during the rehearsals / run of any productions.

No weapons of any kind. If you carry a multi-tool, Leatherman, Gerber, etc. it should only be used appropriately, for lab related work.

Lab hours must be scheduled and completed during the students set hours. Unless a student has completed their set hours and are now earning extra credit hours they may be turned away for arriving outside their scheduled hours.

The instructor or an official shop employee MUST supervise student’s hours in a shop.

Students working backstage or in front of house must have their immediate supervisor sign them out daily. Time will not be added after that day of work. Stage Managers, Designers and House Managers please see the faculty lab instructor (Kevin Loeffler).

Students who leave the lab area for an extensive period of time (Example: More than ten minutes in a two hour block.) must sign out. Not doing so can result in a forfeit of all the hours they worked. The day.

Students who do not work efficiently (Example: More socializing then working) may forfeit their hours and the hours of the students they disrupt. You will learn a lot about multi-tasking.

Projects (personal or classroom related) may NOT be worked on in place of mandatory shop hours.

A sign up sheet will be available in the shop that must be filled in to help our shop managers keep track of who will be working each day.

Lab hours must be scheduled by the second week of class. At the end of your scheduled hours each day, you must sign out, and have a supervisor initial your time. Time will not be added after that day of work.

Students caught signing in for other students will receive the same grade drop as the missing student.

Please note ONLY faculty and appointed supervisors are allowed to use cell phones and computers during lab hours, unless in emergency situations.

Expectations:

Your initiative, enthusiasm and willingness to explore unfamiliar ground are crucial to your understanding of the material presented. Always come to class prepared to work with adequate supplies and materials. Remember, theatre is a collaborative art and its success depends entirely on all members of a production working as one.
Policies:

Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act:
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Sexual Harassment:
This course will observe the university’s policy for avoiding sexual harassment.

Academic Integrity Policy:
Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the university and departmental handbooks regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on campus behavior. Please note you will fail the course at minimum and be dismissed from the university as one repercussion maximum.

Grade Appeal Process:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Academic Etiquette:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Academic Advising:
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor, Jennifer Arnold, will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood #204E and can be reached at (361) 825-3466.

University Islander Email:
All students are now required to sign up for their university email account. All communication from the university, department and professor will be sent to your university account.
All Theatre Majors and Minors are expected to have read and be familiar with the Student Handbook concerning policies and procedures for the department.

Please return the two information sheets to Kevin ASAP. If you do not you will have to accept the assignment you are given. Thank you.

Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
BACKSTAGE GUILDLINES AND PROCEDURES

Wear appropriate attire

- Black shirt, black pants, & black shoes. A long sleeved black shirt and black socks may also be necessary.
- Do not wear tight, revealing or see-through clothing. Tank tops are not appropriate for backstage wear.
- Stage Managers and crew members who may have to go into the front of house area, should wear dress blacks.
- You must wear BLACK clothing for all show calls.
- Safe comfortable shoes that completely cover your feet are necessary. Do not wear sandals, platforms, flip-flops, open toed or open heeled shoes backstage. Please note this rule applies in the various shops, unless otherwise indicated.
- Bare feet are never allowed in the wardrobe area or backstage. Even actors should remember some form of foot protection when off stage. Please note this rule applies in the various shops.
- Maintain a high level of personal hygiene.
- Be sensitive with the use of cologne and scented products.
- Limit the amount of jewelry that you wear. Flashy rings or necklaces and noisy bracelets are not appropriate.

Be on time for all calls
• Report on time and ready to work for all calls.
• Remain in the wardrobe area, backstage, or where you are assigned while you are on duty.
• It is NOT appropriate to go into the HOUSE and sit or stand at any time. That is what crew view was for.
• Anticipate your calls and show up on time and ready to work. Do not arrive at the theatre and then begin to eat your lunch or dinner.
• If you must be late, call YOUR appropriate supervisor (stage manager, crew head, etc.) Calling a faculty member or empty office or empty shop will not help you.
• Make sure your supervisor knows if you leave the area, such as to visit the vending area or lobby. Please do not lose track of your time if you take a break.

Food and Drink Backstage
• Keep all food and Drink away from costumes, props and generally out of the back stage areas.
• Do not leave uncovered food items anywhere backstage or in the wardrobe area.
• Try to avoid bringing messy foods backstage. Water is best backstage.

Display proper decorum and behavior
• Leave your troubles at home. Do NOT bring personal problems to the theatre.
• Everyone associated with the production has a challenging and difficult job to do. Concentrate on your role and help others concentrate on theirs. Do not worry about what others around you are doing or not doing. That is for a supervisor to address.
• Save the psychoanalysis and gossip for outside show time.
- Negative comments or criticism of a performer’s work or a designer’s work is NOT appropriate during the rehearsal process or run of the show. Be professional. You will have an opportunity to evaluate the work of the performers and designers in class play reviews.

- Help keep you performers calm. Help them out by creating a calm, comfortable atmosphere backstage and in the dressing rooms.

- Remember that there is a different audience each time we perform. They deserve the very best show possible. This requires your best work each afternoon and evening you are at the theatre.

- No one should ever ask you twice to do something for your production.

**What to do when you are not involved with a change or other scheduled duties.**

- Remain active, energized and engaged with the production.

- Be ready to help when needed.

- Don’t disappear. Do not wander from your assigned area.

- Do not lie down or sleep during work time.

- Try not to sit on the floor in the hallways or backstage. Someone is bound to trip over you.

- Do NOT bring computers, iPods, mP3 players, video games, etc. to work. Computers are used by stage managers, and approved supervisors only. They should only be used for production related tasks.

  - As a performer you will be allowed to listen to a personal player. In the dressing room area, prior to half hour. Do NOT take them into shop areas or on stage. At half hour they must be put away. If phones are used they should be set to “Airplane” mode.
• No audio should be played out loud in the backstage areas, especially in the dressing rooms. No one has to be forced to listen to your music while they try to prepare.

• Cell phones are NOT permitted backstage or in the wardrobe areas (the supervisors will have their cell phone for show purposes ONLY). Please turn your phone off while you are at work. Putting your social life on hold for 4-6 hours is not asking a lot from a serious artist.

• You as supervisors will be expected to ignore all nonproduction related texts, and calls.

• You may carry a small personal project (homework, book, knitting, etc.) to work on during idle times, but be prepared to lay it aside quickly.

Check out and in is mandatory for each rehearsal and performance (Wardrobe / Properties / etc.)

• Use check out sheets to account for each piece before each performance and rehearsal.

• Use check in sheets to account for each piece after each performance and rehearsal.

• Crew not performing careful and proper check-in procedures will be written up. (If removed from crew a failing grade will result)

• Report ALL missing pieces to your supervisor ASAP. No matter what the item is.

• The stage manager and their assistants will be performing check in and out prior to technical and dress rehearsals.

• Items missing or broken must be reported at the end of each night. Failure to report issues will result in missing pieces.

• Remember procrastination and failure to do your job does not constitute emergencies for others.
Load In (Wardrobe / Properties/ Weapons)

- Check that costumes are hung correctly and in the proper place.
- Check that each prop has a home in the cabinets and during the show. These areas should be labeled.
- Hook the top hook on bodices and doublets to take the strain off the shoulders or zipper and help keep the garment from stretching.
- Swords should be checked nightly for burs or possible weakness. Appropriate maintenance should be done ASAP.
- Use hanging loops if provided. If a garment needs hanging loops please install them or write it on a trouble sheet.
- Don’t over crowd costume racks. Costumes need room to breath between performances.
- Do not over crowd props cabinets, this can and will result in damaged props. Remember to lock the prop and weapon boxes each night.

Keep records of your moves

- Keep notes on all your shift changes. Write out the steps of your job. This will help the crew out if you are late or absent and need someone to cover for you.
- Leave these records at the theatre along with your check in and out sheets.

VISITORS AND ANIMALS ARE NOT ALLOWED BACKSTAGE

- You may NOT invite friends, relatives, children, pets, spouses, or people you meet on the street backstage.
- NEVER bring animals backstage!! Only show and disability aid animals will be allowed into rehearsal spaces, and backstage areas (with prior consent).
- Ask visitors to meet you at the stage door or in the lobby after performances.
- You are never to go out front to the lobby or other areas in costume. This is very unprofessional.
**Write-ups**

- Students can and will be written up for disregarding or breaking any of the rules listed above.
- Students can and will be written up in a shop setting if necessary.
- First offense may be handled as a verbal warning, this is at the discretion of the supervisor. Verbal warnings may not be disputed.
- Second offense will result in a write up. The write up must be legible or typed, and clearly written. Three copies must be made (Supervisor, offender, and faculty supervisor for lab courses). Both parties must sign all copies of the write up. All three of the above persons must receive a hard copy of this write up no later than 11am the following morning.
  - The faculty advisors for the labs reserve the right to veto any and all write-ups. Depending on the weight of the offense.
- If a member of the two parties refuses to sign the write up
  - The supervisor will have the choice of sending the offender home.
  - Both parties will meet the faculty advisor (Kevin Loeffler) the following morning.
  - This meeting must take place no later than 9am.
  - Both parties must be present.
  - It is never too late to call and arrange said meeting.
  - If a performer is one of the two parties the director of the production may also be called in for the conference.
  - If the offender has been wrongly accused or accused with malicious intent, the supervisor will be written up.
  - Remember it is best not to believe backstage gossip and hearsay. Especially from random sources.
• Third offense will result in a write up and could result in dismissal from the production, a failing grade and each faculty member will also be alerted to the ill behavior of offending students. For future reference in casting and assignment placement.

• Any offense beyond the third will result in dismissal from the production, a failing grade and each faculty member will also be alerted to the ill behavior of offending students. For future reference in casting and assignment placement.

• Supervisor Hierarchy
  o Any Faculty or Staff member
  o Stage Managers / Shop Managers, and Shop Staff
  o Assistant Stage Managers
  o Crew Heads / Crew Supervisors

• Supervisors will be shown the same respect as Directors, Designers, and Faculty members.

• Each offense repeated or new will be applied to your three chances.

• Supervisors will not be allowed to abuse their power. Remember respect will result in respect.

• Write up of a supervisor.
  o A supervisor ignoring any grievance brought before them could be written up for neglect of duty.
  o If any cast or crewmember that has a grievance or has witnessed behavior unfitting to a supervisor. Such as the breaking of the rules, shouting at cast or crewmembers, favoritism, etc. These production members have the right to address their grievance with the correct faculty supervisor.
• All cast and crew members must be made aware of the rules listed above. Before starting their assignment / role on the productions.

*Please note the above rules apply to everyone and anyone participating in a University production (Actor, Volunteers, Technicians, Crew, etc.).

*By committing to participating in a TAMUCC production, you are committing to working as a production member. The production team’s goal is the highest quality production we can produce. Remember this each time you enter the stage areas. Do your part to achieving quality art, don’t settle for less than perfection. Please commit to showing you are a serious artist, and that your art is not to be brought down by anyone. Thank you and remember have fun and enjoy your art.

Thank you.
I, _______________________________ have read, and understand all assignments, rules, and regulations contained in the above document (Production Lab Syllabus). I acknowledge that by signing this form I agree to follow the guidelines set for this course. I also take responsibility for keeping track of my copy of the document, and any information contained in the document (If you lose your syllabus you will be responsible to get a new copy. This is a syllabus not an excuse for being unprepared.).

Print Full Name__________________________________________

Preferred Email __________________________________________

Contact Phone Number (CELL) _____________________________

X_______________________________________________
SAFETY REGULATIONS

In addition to having insurance, the student is responsible for:

1. Receiving an orientation to inherent hazards, safety rules and regulations required to prevent accidents.

2. Reporting to the supervisor and/or instructor all hazards in the work place that he/she is unable to correct.

3. Attending scheduled safety/orientation classes.

4. Being physically capable of maintaining the required stamina to safely perform assigned duties.

5. Informing the supervisor when not able to perform his/her regular or other assigned duties.

6. Wearing or using ALL items of protective clothing and equipment provided or required to perform their job safely.

7. Contacting his/her supervisor for assistance or instruction when in doubt about how to perform a job or activity safely or accurately.

8. Wearing proper clothing when reporting to work (i.e. no open toed shoes, high heels, loose garments, hair or clothing, etc.). These types of clothing could result in or contribute to, an accident.

9. Performing other actions as necessary to prevent accidents.

I have read and understand the above rules and regulations for safety and have been briefed as to the proper safety procedures for use of equipment in Theatre Production class.

Print Full Name____________________________ Date________________

X_________________________________________________________________