THEATRE PRODUCTION LAB I

THEA 1101  Spring ’16
Section 1  F 2:00-4:30 pm  Warren Theatre, CA 102

Instructor  Kevin Loeffler  Chair  J. Don Luna
Phone  825.2262  Phone  825.5988
Email  Kevin.Loeffler@tamucc.edu  Email  Don.Luna@tamucc.edu
Office hours  M: 1 – 3pm, T-F: 1 – 2 pm  Office  Bay Hall #333
Shop hours  M-F 9-1, 1-5 pm
Office  Bay Hall #373

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 Objectives:
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). 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 for agreeing to come in at that time every week. Each week the student does not come in at that time, or does not clear it with their supervisor, it will count as an unexcused absence.
Strike:

Students are required to attend and contribute to one strike.

*The Heidi Chronicles – March 6th*

*Rent – April 15th*

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 only. Each shop/area comes with a supervisor(s) that you will report to for work during your lab hours. Students will also be required to attend one work call during the semester. Work call dates will be announced during the semester.

*Shop/Area Supervisors:*

- Scenery/Props/Paint - Kevin Loeffler & Jesse Gonzalez
- Costumes/Make-up - Rosa Lazaro
- Lighting & Sound - Philip Johnson
- FOH/PR - Alison Frost

Student Designers will maintain their hours with the faculty member overseeing the respective areas.

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 be counted as half of your 30 hours for your lab.*

Running a Show:

Students assigned to a running crew 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. Alison Frost will distribute FOH/PR schedules. 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 an email attachment or on Blackboard. **Papers will be due by 11:59 pm on the last day of regular classes.**

**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></th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Production Lab Hours</td>
<td>30 pts./hr.</td>
<td>900 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>20 pts./wk.</td>
<td>260 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strike</td>
<td>145 pts./strike</td>
<td>290 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>150 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crew Assignment</td>
<td>Full Letter Grade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1600 pts.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 permits iPods, MP3 player, Portable CD Players, etc. If music is to be played for shop hours, it will be through supervisor control. These devises 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 then ten minutes in a two hour block.) must sign out. Not doing so can result in a forfeit of all hours for 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:
Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus,
equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student
with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the
process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students
may contact the Associate Dean’s Office.

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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree
Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses
and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The
CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (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.