COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO DESIGN

THEA 4314  Spring ’20  Center for the Sciences, CS 108
Section .001  TTh 3:30-4:45 pm
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Office hours  M: 1 – 3pm, T-F: 1 – 2 pm  Office  Bay Hall #333
Shop hours  M-F 9-12, 1-5 pm

Course Description:
The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the practice of collaborating with members of a design team to create a unified product. Through lecture, written analysis, class participation and practical projects, students will develop the skills of effective collaboration. This course is meant to promote and foster creative team building and is open to all students possessing an interest in design and willingness to collaborate. Collaboration is critical to the success of this class and a certain level of critique and response will be necessary and expected from each student in order to facilitate further development.

Student Learning Objectives:
1. The student will demonstrate critical analysis skills and apply them to various productions and design teams.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to research and communicate theatrical designs amongst a group of their peers.
3. The student will collaborate and develop unified design concepts by working in multiple production groups.

Course Requirements:
1. Collaborative Approaches to Design is a lecture and a studio course. Attendance is mandatory in order to ensure the successful completion of the course. Any missed class period will make it difficult to adequately complete projects.
2. Students are expected to come to class prepared. Each project will be unique to each student and will require different media and materials. Students will be expected to acquire the tools necessary to effectively contribute to each project assigned.
3. The student will be assigned various artistic projects that will be the primary source of their grades throughout the semester.
4. Students will be collaborating in multiple group projects throughout the semester. Each student is expected to treat his or her peers with respect. The use of constructive criticism and polite debate is necessary and encouraged and is a valuable tool as a theatre artist.

Attendance:
Excused absences will only be granted at the discretion of the instructor, given proper accompanying paperwork is provided (doctor’s note, note from parent regarding death in the family) and signed. Excused absences will also be given for proper, documented religious holidays. Students are admitted 2 unexcused absences. After 2, each unexcused absence will result in a full letter grade drop. More that 3 unexcused or excused absences will result in a failure of the course. Extreme circumstances may come up and should be discussed with the instructor to resolve any foreseeable disputes.

Grading:
Grading for each student will be based upon their demonstrated abilities, growth, communication and commitment to class projects. Taken into consideration for each project will be completeness of work, originality, appropriateness of the design. Students will not be graded on their skills as a fine artist, though effort will impact grading. Any plagiarized items will result in an F for the assignment.

Grading for this course will be as follows:
Attendance/Participation  Total:  150 pts.
Reading Discussion Participation  150 pts.
Cooperation vs. Collaboration Project  150 pts.
Script Analysis  200 pts.
Storytelling Project  300 pts.
Production Design Project 200 pts.
Theatrical Design Project 1 250 pts.
Theatrical Design Project 2 250 pts.
Final Project 350 pts.
Total 2,000 pts.

Grading Break Down
A= 2000 – 1701
B= 1700 – 1401
C= 1400 – 1101
D= 1100 – 801
F= 800 – 0

LATE PROJECTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNLESS ACCOMPANIED WITH AN EXCUSED ABSENCE! (or with prior consent from instructor)

Lateness:
Class will start promptly and in conjunction with the stated time listed at the top of this document. Arrival 10 minutes after this time will result in a loss of participation points for that day. Arrival fifteen minutes or later will result in an unexcused absence for that day. Time management is an important asset in this business and will not be taken lightly.

Cell Phones/iPhones/iPods/iPads/etc.:
The use of cell phones and all other personal electronic equipment not necessary for medical reasons is not permitted. The use of these items in class is a distraction. Checking of these items during class, even for the time, will result in a confiscation of the item for the duration of the class, a loss of participation points for the day. If there is to be music played during a work session, it will be under the instructor’s discretion.

Materials:
Materials listed below will be discussed in detail the first day of class. It is possible materials may be shared to offset costs. Textbooks may also be shared only if it does not interfere with each student completing assigned tasks out of the textbook. It should be said that the book(s) assigned will be useful to any student wishing to pursue a career in this field.

Required Textbooks:
None

Tools:
There are no materials required for the entirety of the course. Materials will vary greatly depending on the role and the project throughout the semester. Materials will be purchased at the students expense to further communicate their ideas. Related to that, a USB portable flash drive is a good resource for transporting digital files and is quite handy for all classes. They are highly recommended for educational as well as personal use. You are expected to come to class prepared with the materials necessary to work productively on the task assigned on that day according to the calendar. Failure to do so will result in a loss of participation points for that day.

Schedule:
*Note: This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester. The instructor will try to give proper notice, but it is not guaranteed.

Weeks:
Week 1 1/21 Introduction
1/23 Production Design project joint class
Week 2 1/28 Cooperation vs. Collaboration in-class project; Script Analysis discuss
1/30 Discuss Chapter 1; Roles in Collaboration
Week 3 2/4 Script Analysis due & discuss
2/6 Storytelling project discuss & begin
Week 4 2/11 Steps of the Design Process; Storytelling work
2/13 Storytelling Roughs due; Trust in Collaboration; Discuss Chapter 2

*Seed Project opens @ Dept. Meeting on Feb. 14th; continues Feb. 15th

Week 5 2/18 Discuss Chapter 3; Storytelling project studio session
2/20 Critiquing Peers; Collaboration from afar/Collaboration Q&A
Week 6 2/25 Production Design scripts & production teams
Joint Class
*A Gentleman’s Guide… opens March 2nd thru 7th
Week 7 3/3  Discuss Chapter 4; Storytelling project studio session
3/5  Joint Class
Week 8 3/10  SPRING BREAK
3/12  SPRING BREAK
Week 9 3/17  Storytelling project presentations
3/19  Joint Class
Week 10 3/24  Research & Presenting; Theatrical Design project 1 discuss
3/26  Joint Class
Week 11 3/31  Theatrical Design studio
4/2  Joint Class
Week 12 4/7  Theatrical Design presentations; Final Project discuss
4/9  Joint Class/ Work on films
  *Last day to drop classes is April 10th
Week 13 4/14  Chapter 5 discuss; Theatrical Design project 2 discuss
  *Marie Antoinette opens April 14th thru 19th
4/16  Theatrical Design studio
Week 14 4/21  Studio Session
4/23  Theatrical Design presentations to Guest Instructor
  * Island Dance Demo opens April 23rd
Week 15 4/28  Studio Session
4/30  Studio Session
Week 16 5/5  Final Project presentation formatting/expectations/professionalism
  *40 Min. Play Festival opens May 3rd thru 6th
Final 5/  Final Project Due

Policies:

Disabilities Accommodations
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/Plagiarism:
University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in a failing grade for that assignment.

Grade Appeals:
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C0.03, 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.C0.03, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course
Dropping a Class:
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term is April 10th, 2020.

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.

Classroom/Professional Behavior:
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

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.