Date: 01/07/2014

ROSE STATE COLLEGE

Division Course Syllabus

Division Humanities

Course Title Stagecraft
Course Prefix and Number TH 1103

Semester and Year Submitted Spring 2014

Prepared by Rick Nelson

Credit Hours 3

Hours Per Week: Class 3 Lab 0

Course Description (as it appears in Catalog)

Principles of constructing, rigging, painting, and assembling modern stage scenery and equipment. Requires 16 laboratory hours which includes some evenings and weekends.

Prerequisites None

Text(s):

Title

Author

Publisher

Copyright Date

ISBN #

Reading Level

Supplemental Materials: (Other books, audio visual aids, etc.)
Outline for Remainder of Syllabus:

Rationale: Stagecraft is a study of the techniques, materials and concept that go into the creation of the visual elements of the living art that is theatre. Much of the course is a hands on approach in which the student will explore the technical and design aspects of theatre. Working in groups they will also explore scene painting and lighting. In addition to the in-class projects the students will be required to work on the current productions. This work can be as a member of one of the running crews or as part of the construction crew. The lab is designed so that the student will be using the skills and ideas learned in class on a live production. Each student will have an individual creative project due at the end of the term. The course is structured as an introduction to scene design, prop design, scene painting and lighting design. Through such activities, the student should develop an appreciation of the cultural value of theatre.

Expected Outcomes: The student should be able to:
1. Identify the rudiments of design, construction, handling, and lighting of stage scenery.
2. Work in a supervised laboratory situation in the scene shop safely and effectively with basic tools and equipment.
3. Develop, build, paint, and light actual projects, such as scenery, which can be employed in the actual staging of a school production.
4. Appreciate the value of technical skill in addition to, or separate from, acting and directing skills.
5. Gain a new vantage point from which to study skills related to the theatre.

Methods of Instruction:

1. Lecture.
2. Discussion.
3. Laboratory workshop.
4. Special individual projects.
5. Participation in a RSC production.

Assessment (Including Critical Thinking measurements):
I. Final written/practical exam.
II. Class exercises, participation and attendance.
(daily participation grades will be assigned for the completion of lab assignments).
III. Satisfying of a minimum of 15 hours production time outside of the classroom or assume a crew position for one production.

Learning Goals:

Unit I. Theatre Safety, Production Sequence and Personnel (Expected Outcomes, 2, 4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:
A. Determine the steps needed for shop safety in a working theatre.
B. Identify and define the production sequence: Script, Concept, Design and Construction
C. Define the following production jobs in a working theatre.
   1. Producer
   2. Playwright
   3. Director
   4. Production Manager
   5. Stage Manager
   6. Scenic and Property Personnel
   7. Lighting, Costume, Makeup and Sound Personnel

Unit II. The Stage and Its Equipment. (Expected Outcomes, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:
   define and distinguish the following:

A. Distinguish the various tools and materials utilized in modern theatre stagecraft.
B. Distinguish and Identify Proscenium Stage, Thrust Stage, Arena Stage, Black Box stage and
   Found Theatre spaces and their uses.

Unit III. Scenic Production Techniques (Expected Outcomes, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)

A study of basic scenic production techniques using equipment and materials in possession of the
theatre department. Theory and practice will both be stressed. The student, after completing this
topic of study should be able to perform simple structural projects and be competent with many
of the basic woodworking processes.

On a written exam/oral presentation, students will also be expected to demonstrate that they can
determine the definition and purpose of the following:

A. Two-Dimensional Scenery
   1. Flats
   2. Soft Scenery
B. Three Dimensinal Scenery
   1. Stage Platforming
   2. Stairs
   3. Staircase Railings
   4. Wagons
   5. Revolves
   6. Skids
   7. Platform Anchoring Techniques
   8. Rocks and Trees

Unit IV. Scenic Painting (Expected Outcomes, 1, 3, 4 and 5)
A study of basic scenic painting production techniques using equipment and materials in possession of the theatre department. Theory and practice will both be stressed. The student, after completing this topic of study should be able to perform simple and advanced painting projects and be competent with many of the scenic painters processes.

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

A. Identify scenic paint, applicators and auxiliary scene-painting tools.
B. Determine the appropriate preparation for repairing holes, applying dutchmen, flameproofing and horizontal and vertical painting.
C. Distinguish and define size coat, prime coat and top coat of paint.
D. Define grid transfer and its purpose.
E. Identify basic spray painting techniques and its purpose.

Unit V.  Stage Lighting  (Expected Outcomes, 1, 3, 4 and 5)

A discussion and demonstration of modern theatre lighting will be made. Wiring practices and usage of electric and electronic equipment will be discussed. In addition, inputting simple code for use in programmable lighting software will be discussed.

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

A. Identify Ellipsoidal Spotlights, Fresnel Spotlights, PAR Cans, Followspots and specialty instruments.
B. List the important cables and connectors used in stage lighting.
C. Identify dimmers, circuits and cues.

Unit VI.  Costume Construction  (Expected Outcomes, 2, 4 and 5)

A discussion and demonstration of theatre costume techniques will be made. Construction and location practices of clothing and accessories will be discussed. In addition, practical application of hand sewing and using sewing machines will be discussed and demonstrated.

On a written exam/oral presentation, the student will be expected to demonstrate that they can:

A. List the essential equipment used in a standard theatrical costume shop.
B. Define the common fabrics and weaves used in garments both historically and today.
C. Distinguish between the various techniques of fabric dyeing and fabric painting.
D. Determine the appropriate use of costume accessories in a production. This will include discussion on wigs, footwear, jewelry, millinery, armor and masks.