

Updated 07/18/2023



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

Stagecraft I

DRAM – 1330 - 001

Benjamin Mason

NOTE: This is a 16-week course.

NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

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Spring 2024

Course Description:

Introduces the theories and practices of technical theatre design and construction through lecture and practical application. Required of theatre majors. Semester Hours 3 (3 lec/3 lab)

Prerequisites and/or Corequisites:

None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Activities in this course require working with power tools, machinery, carpentry tools, and stage lighting equipment, as well as reading, some writing, and drawing. This course requires both a great deal of physical effort all with mental fortitude.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Benjamin Mason

MCC Email: bmason@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8118

Office Location: MTA 105C

Office/Teacher Conference Hours: 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM MWF or by appointment

Other Instruction Information:

Required Text & Materials:

Title: *Scenic Design and Lighting Techniques*

Author: Chuck Gloman and Rob Napoli

Edition:

Publisher: Focal Press

ISBN: 0-240-80806-1

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Students will complete all required reading, quizzes, exams, skill tests, projects, and other activities. Each student must fulfill a minimum of 48 production crew hours per semester for theatre department productions. Class discussions will be a forum for students to share ideas and insights into the nature of their exploration of theatre. Assigned readings will supplement the student's knowledge of the practices of stagecraft. Discussions, tests, play reviews, possible

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graded written assignments, and PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE will measure student progress.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Stagecraft addresses the general principles of the planning, preparation, organization, and execution of the technical aspects of theatrical presentation. Students will master the fundamentals of specialized technology and theory as it applies to the theatre, including color, electricity, acoustics, and design theory. Students will develop fundamental skills in executing technical ideas through sketching, drafting, painting, and construction.

Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 10% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who misses 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class period.

Course Outline or Schedule:

Lecture/Tour	1-9	Intro/Syllabus/Tour HW: Ch. 1 – Basic Building Blocks
Lecture/Demo	1-11	Ch. 1 HW: Ch. 3 – Tools & Techniques

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Quiz/Demo	1-16	Quiz Ch. 1 Tools Demo
Demo	1-18	Tools Demo (cont.) HW: Ch. 2 – Scenic Construction Materials
Quiz/Lecture	1-23	Quiz Ch. 3 Ch. 2 Cut Lists
Quiz/Work	1-25	Quiz Ch. 2 Build Platforms HW: Ch. 4 – Designer Plates; Construction Tips & Techniques
Lecture	1-30	Ch. 4
Quiz/Work	2-1	Quiz Ch. 4 Build Flats Cut Lists HW: Ch. 5 – Script Analysis
Lecture/Work	2-6	Ch. 5 Analysis Activity Choose script
Quiz/Work	2-8	Quiz Ch. 5 Analysis Workday HW: Ch. 6 – Communicating Ideas
Lecture	2-13	Ch. 6 HW: Analyze script
Quiz/Work	2-15	Quiz Ch. 6 Ground plan Workday
Due		Script Analysis due in class and BrightSpace
Due		Play response 1 due (your chosen script) in BrightSpace HW: Ch. 7 – Adding Realistic Details

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Lecture	2-20	Ch. 7
Quiz/Work	2-22	Quiz Ch. 7 Ground plan/Elevation Revision Workday HW: See <i>Into the Woods</i>
Discussion	2-27	Discuss <i>Into the Woods</i> HW: Ch 8 –Choosing Props, Dressings and Floor Treatments
Lecture	2-29	Ch. 8
	3-5	Spring Break
	3-7	Spring Break
Quiz/Work Due	3-12	Quiz Ch. 8 Prelim. GP/Ele. Due in class Props, Final GP/Ele Workday
Work Due	3-14	Prelim. Props list/research due in class Final GP/Ele. Workday
Work/Due	3-19	Final GP/Ele Due in class and BrightSpace Prop/Construction Drawing Workday HW: Ch. 9 – Basics of Lighting
Lecture	3-21	Ch. 9 HW: See: <i>Princess and the Pea</i>
Discussion Due	3-26	<i>Princess and the Pea</i> Discussion Play Response 3 due (<i>Princess and the Pea</i>)
Quiz/Work Due	3-28	Quiz Ch. 9 Final Props Due in class and BrightSpace Lighting Tour/Fixtures
Work	4-2	Lighting/Construction Drawings Workday
Presentation	4-4	Lighting Design Ideas Due in class and BrightSpace Lighting Design Ideas Presentation

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Work	4-9	Construction Drawing Workday
Presentation	4-11	Construction Drawing Presentation
Due		Construction Drawings due in class and BrightSpace
Work	4-16	Color Drawing Workday
Work	4-18	Color Drawing Workday
Work	4-23	Color Drawing Workday
Presentation	4-25	Color Drawings Presentations
Due		Color Drawings due in class and BrightSpace HW: See: <i>The Wolves</i>
Final	4-30	9:35 AM – 11:35 AM
		Final Project Presentation
Due		Play response 4 (<i>The Wolves</i>) due in class and BrightSpace
Due		Play Reading Assignment Due BrightSpace
Due		Additional Play Responses Due (Optional) in class and BrightSpace
Due		Additional Drawings Due (Optional) in class and BrightSpace
Due		Scale Model Due (Optional) in class

Course Grading Information:

Crew Performance (**48% of total grade – 480 pts total**): Students quality of work, attitude, and attendance will be evaluated and tracked during crew hours. Crew hours provide an opportunity to apply the techniques and ideas discussed in class.

In-class Assignments (**4% of total grade – 40 pts total**): These will consist of a short, in-class assignments that will be collected at the end of class for evaluation.

Quizzes (**9% of grade – 90 pts total - 9 at 10 pts/each**): Quizzes and Examinations will be assigned over classroom readings and discussions.

Projects (**21% of total grade – 210 pts total - 6 at 35 pts/each**): 6 project components will be due at separate times throughout the semester. Project details will be presented later.

Play Reading Assignment: **(12% of total grade 120 pts total – 8 at 15 pts/each)**

Production responses **(6% of total grade – 60 pts total - 4 at 15 pts/each):**

Students will discuss various elements of theatrical stage construction. Class attendance is crucial to the understanding and retention of classroom concepts and their practical application.

Written Assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc. College-level writing is expected.

Play Response criteria:

12 pt. font, Times New Roman (Only)

1-2 pages

1-inch margins on all sides

Double Spaced (2.0 spacing, not 1.5)

Simple heading – Your name and date ONLY. Do not include the class or my name – I know my name. I've had it for 43 years.

Use the knowledge you gain throughout the semester to inform your writing about the plays and productions. I am interested in your thoughts and opinions. Write about those. Be sure to include the following (and remember, be specific with details):

Discuss writing, acting, directing, design, and technical choices made in the production.

What about the play/performance did you like?

What about the play/performance did you not like?

How would you describe your overall experience reading/watching the play?

NO PLOT SYNOPSIS! I have read the play repeatedly. I know the plot.

Grading Scale:

Crew/Lab Performance	480 pts
In-class Assignments	40 pts
Quizzes	90 pts
Projects	210 pts
Written Play Reading responses	120 pts.
Written production responses	<u>60 pts</u>
	1000 pts

Some extra credit assignment will be available.

All grades: 900 – 1000 = A
 800 – 890 = B
 700 – 790 = C
 600 - 690 = D
 590 and below = F

Late Work and Make Up Work Policies:

Students are expected to be in class every day and on time. Much of what will be discussing each week cannot be learned (or “made up”) by any other means except during each class. Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will have serious consequences and may result in a failing grade. Written assignments must be neatly typed, free of grammatical mistakes, spelling, etc. College-level writing is expected. Due dates will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Course work will not be accepted past the due date. If you know you will have a conflict meeting a deadline, please discuss this with the instructor ahead of time.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Students will approach the artistic nature of technical theatrical practices with respect and professionalism; immaturity, and rudeness will not be tolerated. Safety always comes first, proper crew and shop attire should be always worn, if not, the student will be asked to leave the shop and unable to participate in activities.

Proper shop attire includes:

Close-toed, flat-soled shoes (no flip-flops, sandals, or heels)

Please remove any dangling necklaces or ties

Pull back long hair

Wear clothes that are comfortable to work/move in and that you don't mind getting damaged and/or stained

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is available for use. You may provide your own, if you want.

[Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

10/09/2023



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact the Accommodations Coordinator as soon as possible to provide documentation and make necessary arrangements. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by the Accommodations Coordinator. For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122
Room 319, Student Services Center

Title IX:

We care about your safety, and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report an incident of sexual misconduct are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465. MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <http://www.lighthouse-services.com/mclennan/>

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students. Go to McLennan's Title IX webpage at www.mclennan.edu/titleix/. It contains more information about definitions, reporting, confidentiality, resources, and what to do if you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, gender-based violence or the crimes of rape, acquaintance rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, or domestic violence.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

College personnel recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources or want to explore strategies for balancing life and school, we encourage you to contact either MCC CREW – Campus Resources Education Web by calling (254) 299-8561 or by emailing crew@mclennan.edu or a Success Coach by calling (254) 299-8226 or emailing success@mclennan.edu.

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

The CREW, Success Coaches, and Paulanne's Pantry are all located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services.

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an

emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/docs/Emergency_Grant_Application.pdf

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

Go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-Staff-Commons/requirements.html> for information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system.

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.