Scene Painting for the Theatre
UNH Department of Theatre and Dance

Course Syllabus

TR: 9:30 – 11:00
PCAC Johnson Scene Shop

Professor: Szu-Feng Chen
Office Hours: TR 1:30-3:30
Office Room: PCAC D15
Office Phone: 862-4445
E-Mail: Szu-Feng.Chen@unh.edu
Also by appointment made 24 hours in advance

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION (2 credit):
   This course will focus on scene painting techniques and developing new painting skills. The class will encompass 2 hours class meeting for lecture and demonstrating painting techniques and lab time for working on individual projects by appointments with scene shop staff.

2. OBJECTIVES:
   - Develop manual skills of drawing and painting.
   - Learn to analyze the information from scaled image and to translate it into large scale.
   - Understand the role of scenic artist in theatrical and entertainment industry.

3. ATTENDANCE POLICIES:
   Woody Allen said, "Being there is 98% of success." Class attendance is required and will be monitored since a large part of the learning process occurs during class discussions and presentation. Missing extensive days results in a significant impact on your work, and to your participation in the class. Sometimes an illness, emergencies, or other circumstances may cause you to miss class. You are allowed THREE absences for the semester with proofs of reasonable excuses. EACH ABSENCE FOR ANY REASON BEYOND THREE except under rare extenuating circumstances will result in a reduction of 3 of your final earned grade. (For example 4 absences =12 points; 5 absences = 15 points...etc.)

   Plan to arrive in class ON TIME with all necessary materials for the class day. Arrivals later than 15 minutes will be count as a recorded absence, later than 5 minutes will be count as a tardy. THREE TARDIES will constitute an absence.

4. CLASS POLICIES:
   Assigned work will be accepted at the beginning of class time on the due date. Late arrival of class projects will cause a reduction of your project grade.

   Please TURN OFF your cell phone or pager in class. NO FOOD or DRINK is allowed in the scene shop and no smoking at any time in the building. Please ware toe covered shoes and be ready to paint at the class starting time.
5. ASSIGNMENTS / EVALUATION:

70% Independent Projects
- Project 1 (10%) 2’x4’ Clouds
- Project 2 (10%) 2’x4’ Marble/Stone
- Project 3 (25%) 2’x4’ Wood Grain
- Project 4 (25%) 3’x4’ Poster

15% Drawing Journal
Weekly drawings (10%) Shape study, Value study, Still life...etc.
Class notes (5%) Class notes, Paint mixing recipes...etc.

5% Final Scenic Painting Portfolio
A well organized presentation of your class projects.

10% Class Participation

6. MATERIAL, TOOLS and FEE

- Paint Cloth and Shoes
- 9”x12” Sketchbook
- Drawing pencils (H, HB, 2B, 4B, 6B) and charcoal
- Scale Ruler
- Chip Brushes 1”, 2”, 4”
- Containers with lid for paint mixing
- Scenic Fitch Brushes -- 7 pieces kit with brush sizes from ¼” to 2” Fitch. OR
  Other similar paint brushes

7. GRADING SCALE

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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8. TEXT AND REFERENCES

Required Text:
Scenic Art for the Theatre, History, Tools and Techniques, 2nd Ed.
Susan Crabtree and Peter Beudert.
Boston: Focal Press, and imprint of Elsevier, 2005
ISBN 0-240-80462-7

Reference:
Theatrical Design and Production, 6th Ed.

Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information
Paul Carter
New York: Broadway Press, 1994
Fall 2012 Scene Painting for the Theatre


Fall SEMESTER 2011 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
(Based on project working schedule, subjects may be changed)

Week 1: Introduction, Tools and Color Theory

| T | Sep 06 | Shop Orientation and Introduction, Discuss Syllabus  
|   |       | Painting tools: Brushes, Rollers, Sponges...etc.  
|   |       | Auxiliary tools: Buckets, Brush extender, Straight edge...etc.  
|   |       | Color theory: Hue, Value and Saturation, Primary colors,  
|   |       | Secondary colors and Color wheel  
|   |       | **Reading:** *Theatrical Design and Production*, Chapter 6: Color

Week 2: Color Mixing

| T | Sep 13 | Scenic paint components, Types and Color Mixing  
|   |       | Mixing colors and Base Flat for Project 1: Clouds  
|   |       | Prep wood panels for the semester.  
|   |       | **Reading:** *Scenic Art for the Theatre, History, Tools and Techniques*, Chapter 6: Color and Paint  
|   |       | **Due:** Drawing journal: Value Study & Color wheel;  
|   |       | Clouds Research Image

Week 3: Painting Technique, Clouds

| T | Sep 20 | Painting technique: Wet blending, Scumbling, Spattering,  
|   |       | Stippling, Dry brushing...etc  
|   |       | In Class Work: Project 1: Clouds  
|   |       | **Reading:** *Scenic Art for the Theatre, History, Tools and Techniques*, Chapter 7: Preparing for Painting and Texturing Scenery

Week 4: Project 1: Clouds

| T | Sep 27 | In Class Work: Clouds  
|   |       | **Due:** Marble/ Stone Research Image;  
|   |       | Drawing Journal: Still life

Week 5: Painting Technique, Marble

| T | Oct 04 | In Class Work: Clouds  
|   |       | Project 2: Marble Prep. Base Flats, Color Mixing, Practice  
|   |       | **Due:** Project 1: Clouds
### Week 6: Project 2: Marble/ Stone

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T Oct 11</td>
<td>In Class Work: Marble/ Stone</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Reading: Scenic Art for the Theatre, History, Tools and Techniques, Chapter 8: Cartooing, Layout and Lettering</td>
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<td>Due: Drawing Journal: Round Objects I</td>
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### Week 7: Painting Technique, Wood Grain

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<tr>
<td>T Oct 18</td>
<td>In Class Work: Marble/ Stone</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due: Project 2: Marble/ Stone; Wood Grain Research Image</td>
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<td>Due: Drawing Journal: Round Objects II</td>
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### Week 8: Project 3: Wood Grain

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<td>Due: Drawing Journal: Still Life</td>
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### Week 9: Project 3: Wood Grain

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T Nov 01</td>
<td>In Class Work: Wood Grain</td>
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<td>Due: Project 3: Wood Grain; Poster Research Image</td>
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### Week 10: Poster

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<tr>
<td>T Nov 08</td>
<td>Scale and Cartooning, tools and techniques; Base Flats soft goods, Color Mixing, Grid and Cartooning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Making Starch, Size, Preparing soft flats, Color mixing, Grid and Cartooning, Project 4 Prep</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Reading: Scenic Art for the Theatre, History, Tools and Techniques, Chapter 9: Two-dimensional Scenic Painting Techniques, pg. 281-322</td>
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<td>Due: Drawing Journal: Cartooning Project 4 in 1’=1 ½” scale</td>
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### Week 11: Poster

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<tr>
<td>T Nov 15</td>
<td>In Class Work: Project 4: Poster</td>
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<td>Due: Drawing Journal: Poster Color Mixing</td>
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**Week 12: Poster**

M  Nov 22  In Class Work: Project 4: Poster

**Week 13: Poster**

W  Nov 24  In Class Work: Project 4: Poster

**Due:** Drawing Journal: Fabric Study

**Week 14: Poster**

T  Nov 29  In Class Work: Project 4: Poster

**Week 15: Project 4 Due: Poster**

T  Dec 06  **Due:** Project 4: Poster