
Design Innovation Summer Institute-Scenic

Summer 2025: Monday 9am-5pm

Room: 3321

Instructor: Randy Wong-Westbrooke

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Course Description

In this two-week course, we will focus on a process of concept building to stage design. We'll be working on one of the two studio projects during the summer. For each project, our emphasis will be on effective communication in design (both visual and verbal) and presentation (both in-person and in a portfolio form).

Project A: *An American Dream* (One Act Opera by Jack Perla and Jessica Murphy Moo)

Project B: *Menstruation: A Period Piece* (by Miranda Rose Hall and Tova Katz)

Course Objective

- Students will discover how to think about design by first reading and listening, how to follow through with research and ideas, and how to execute a finished project.
- Class will begin with introductions of projects, discussion of plays, and their personal inspirations. They will be guided on how to communicate their ideas, conceptualize the play, and cultivate their own visual tools and critical eyes.
- Students will discover how to effectively communicate through visual research, sketches, and model design.
- Students will be exposed to how scenic design skills can be translated into production design.
- This course will incorporate technical skills such as model-building, perspective drawing, and scale measurement as means of realizing a design.

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*Additional art supplies (*NOT REQUIRED*) for the course for the course listed on separate handout

Week 1: Schedule (Subject to Change)

Monday, June 30th: Introduction Scenic Design

- Introduction to course, instructor, and class
- Going over syllabus
- Review design materials and texts
- Research/Inspiration - Show sample
- Portrait Gallery - Show sample
- Scenic Breakdown - Show sample
- Listen through *An American Dream* overture
- Read and Listen Scene 1 of *Menstruation: A Period Piece*

HW

- 1) Character portrait
- 2) Research and Inspiration (Period/Emotional)
- 3) Brainstorm about the play's physical and emotional world by creating a scenic collage

Tuesday, July 1st: Putting Ideas on Paper

- Presentation of homework (Character Portrait and Collage)
- Class discussion - Historical Research, Emotional Response, Setting the intention of the project
- Theater Basic Terms

- Sketching using theater elevation
- Examining the space (Reading Ground Plan and Section)
- Unit set with specific scenes
- Conceptualizing the play (how to theme the show)
- Storyboarding (intro) - Show sample

HW

- 1) Choosing theme for the show
- 2) Continue Research based on the theme

Wednesday, July 2nd: Thinking in Space

- Presentation of concept along with scenic research (and critique)
- Sketch out ideas for the space
- Introduction to model making (Instructor Presentation)
- Model making demo
- Model Making Practice
- Choose Venue for the show

HW

- 1) Sketch out major scenes and prepare for the rough model

Thursday, July 3rd: Rough Model

- Production Design in Film
- Discussion/Design critique (one-on-one with the instructor)
- List for the final presentation
- In class model making time (during discussion and design critique)

HW

- 1) Finish making the rough model



Friday, July 4th: Holiday (Day Off)

Week 2: Schedule (Subject to Change)

Monday, July 7th: Drafting

- Mid-way Presentation
- Drafting in Theater
- One-on-one check in

HW

- 1) Finish White Model

Tuesday, July 8th: Portfolio Building

- Portfolio Building
- Model Making Demo #2 (Cover common model making techniques)
- In class working time+check in

HW

- 1) Move to color model

Wednesday, July 9th: Working with Other Elements/Media

- In class working time
- Projection Design in Theater
- Map out final presentation

HW

- 1) Aim to finish color model

Thursday, July 10th: Preparing for the Design Presentation

- In class working time (Finish Model Making)
- Taking Model Pictures

HW

- 1) Prepare for the final presentation

Friday, July 11th: Design Presentation

- In class prep time for presentation
- Final Design Presentation

Reflection of the process and projects R

Recommended Texts (Not Required; all required reading will be handed out during class)

An Introduction to Theatre Design

Designing and Drawing for the Theatre Lynn Pecktal

Making the Scene Oscar Brockett, Mitchell, Hardberger

Reference: History of Art H.W. Janson

Reference: Furniture Book

Reference: History of Costume Design Book

Reference: Architectural Graphic Standards by Charles George Ramsey, Harold Reeve Sleeper

Grading: (Materials students will be graded on will be covered during class)

Grades indicate the following:

F= assignment not fulfilled

D= careless, sloppy, or poorly prepared work

C= satisfactory work

B= assignment distinguished by clarity, energy, insight, and/or originality

A= assignment shows the above qualities to a high degree

Class attendance policy:

It is important to be in class, do necessary prep work and participate in discussion and workshops. This will ensure your best learning outcome and put the skills into practice in your design.



Please contact the instructor to discuss any accessibility concerns, situations that are challenging to fully participate and present. Please stay in communication so that we can find the best solutions. We want to make the class as productive as possible for everyone.

Please inform your instructor if you are feeling unwell, we will find an alternative way for you to participate.

Homework policy: Most assignments are due the next day. There will be studio time to work in class as well.

Academic Integrity currently located at: <http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Academic-Integrity>.

Title IX

Title IX prohibits gender discrimination, including sexual harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. If you have experienced sexual harassment or sexual violence, you can receive confidential support and advocacy at the CARE Advocacy Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 1st Floor Wooden Center

West, CAREadvocate@careprogram.ucla.edu, (310) 206-2465. In addition, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provides confidential counseling to all students and can be reached 24/7 at (310) 825-0768. You can also report sexual violence or sexual harassment directly to the University's Title IX Coordinator, 2241 Murphy Hall, titleix@conet.ucla.edu, (310) 206-3417. Reports to law enforcement can be made to UCPD at (310) 825-1491. Faculty and TAs are required under the UC Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment to inform the Title IX Coordinator should they become aware that you or any other student has experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment.



Theater

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