



**DRAM 2335 - 140CL**  
**Theatre Design**  
**Spring 2023**  
**MW 11:00 a.m. –12:20 a.m.**

**Instructor Information:** Curt Meyer. [cmeyer4@com.edu](mailto:cmeyer4@com.edu). 409-933-8371

**Student hours and location:** MW 11:00-12:20 TVB 1150

**Required Textbook/Materials:**

The Pillowman - Martin McDonagh  
Romeo and Juliet – William Shakespeare  
Avanue Q- (online)

**Course Description:** Survey of principles and practices of theater design and its elements. The fundamentals of art and their application to major areas of theatrical design. Creating stage setting through script, color, and architectural analysis. This will be achieved through practical application through rendering, model making, and technical drawing.

**Course requirements:** You will be required to complete four scene designs in this class, each of which includes specific design consideration to be specified below.

Each phase of a project's process will be discussed and critiqued in class – in fact will on most days *be* the class content. Your participation in these discussions is *very* important, and will be part of each project grade. In other words, **your attendance and participation is required at all class sessions**. Portions of each project are due prior to the completion date. You will find it easy to complete these projects *if* you keep up with the weekly schedule of project progress. At certain project phases you will be asked to give a formal presentation of your work.

**Note:** Since many of you are participating in departmental productions, a conscious effort has been made for preparation in both those productions and class assignments. It is more important to have the assignment completed on time rather than trying to play “catch-up” since the schedule is so process- orientated.

Part of this course is devoted to offering information and ideas about design theory. The main goal is to raise visual consciousness and to develop an understanding of the design process through study and practice. There is one exam, based on information from class discussions and the study notes. (which is required reading.) Also required are two one-page reports on live productions attended during the semester (hopefully one should be a professional production).

### **Determination of Course Grade/Detailed Grading Formula:**

Evaluation of individual class projects is based on a series of four criteria:

1. **COMPLETENESS** – Does the design include all the necessary parts, and does it cover the four physical/visual areas that all scene designers are obliged to pay attention to?
2. **QUALITY** – This means quality of design, synthesis of appropriate research, and general imaginativeness and good choices in aesthetic considerations. Did you use appropriate research? Is your design composition handsomely composed? Are the proportions pleasing? Does the design give a good indication of the world of the play? Quality also refers to the level of craftsmanship in the model, and attention to detail and expression of visual creativeness.
3. **PRACTICALITY** – How well does the design serve the dramatic needs of the play, from the standpoint of director and actors? Is there sufficient room provided for entrances? For acting areas? Are the traffic patterns reasonable? Is there a viable relationship between placement of acting areas and audience? Between the set and lighting? Between the set and Costumes? Does the set accommodate reasonably speedy set changes?
4. **SCALE/PROPORTION** – This refers to the accuracy of the applied scale. It also refers to the proportions of the design elements as they relate to the actors, to the theatre architecture, and to other design features. The use of proper scale is a good indication of how much care you took in building your model.

### **GRADING BREAKDOWN:**

- Each assignment grade is evaluated on three criteria: “application of course materials”, “quality of work”, and “completion of work.” Feel free to inquire about your grade standing at anytime.
- Late work will devalue your assignment grade by 25% if one class period late and an additional 25% for each additional class.
- Academic dishonesty will result in a course grade of 0.0.

**% BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:**

***Class Participation*** -10%

***Book Nook*** - 20%

***The Pillowman*** - 20%

***R&J*** - 20%

***Avanue Q*** - 20%

***Performance Reports*** - 10%

***Grading Scale:***

90% - 100%. *A*

80% - 89%. *B*

70% - 79%. *C*

60% - 69%. *D*

0% - 59%. *F*

**Late Work, Make-Up, and Extra-Credit Policy:**

Late work will only be accepted with and excused absence documentation. Make up work and extra credit will be at the discretion of the instructor.

**Attendance Policy:**

In recognition of the importance of regular attendance, the college does not allow any "cuts" on the part of the students, nor does it allow instructors to give "walks." An accurate record of each student's absence will be kept. Students are expected to attend class and to arrive on time. Absences will be recorded on the days of the lectures/discussions/labs, and any other days that the Instructor deems necessary. These absences will not directly affect the student's overall grade, but may influence individual assignments.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw

from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are only permitted to withdraw six times during their college career by State law.

**ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND THE FINAL.** Failure to attend the final will result in an "F" for the class.

Excused absences will be given at the Instructors discretion, but only with some form of hardcopy documentation. It is best to discuss potential absences with your Instructor before it is taken.

**Tardiness Policy:** Tardies, however, will directly affect the student's overall grade. Arriving to class after roll has been called or a test has been given out is considered a tardy. After three tardies, the Instructor may drop the student from the class.

**Communicating with your instructor:** ALL electronic communication with the instructor must be through your COM email. Due to FERPA restrictions, faculty cannot share any information about performance in the class through other electronic means.

<b>Student Learner Outcome</b>	<b>Maps to Core Objective</b>	<b>Assessed via this Assignment</b>
1. Apply a vocabulary and knowledge of the environment, tools, and skills required design a theatrical production.	Communication	Project 1-4
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of work required to design a Theatrical production	Communication Skills Critical Thinking	Discussion Boards
3. Describe the collaborative nature of production with in theatre arts.	Teamwork Social Responsibility Communication Skills Critical Thinking	Project 1-4
4.		
5.		

**Academic Dishonesty:** The practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own. A grade of 0 will be given.

**Student Concerns:** If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of this course, please contact me using the contact information previously provided. If, after discussing your concern with me, you continue to have questions, please contact H. Russ Brown, Director of Theatre at [hrussbrown@com.edu](mailto:hrussbrown@com.edu).

---

**Course outline** (include calendar with lecture topics, due dates):

---

Week	Date	Topic	Reading Assignment	Assignment
1	1/18	Introduction of Syllabus And Course Expectations. Production Organization	Read Course Handouts, Script Analysis, and Design Principals.	
2	1/23	Discuss Design Principals and Script Analysis	Creative Research for 1/25.	Discussion Post: Due 1/22 Choice for Book Nook.
	1/25	Discuss Reading; Research Methods; Presentation on Collage	Read: Design and Composition, and Sketch up Notes.	Begin collecting images. Must have 5 images at beginning of class. Due 1/30.
3	1/30	Discuss Design and Composition, and Sketch <b>DUE:</b> 5 images		Research and Concept statement Due 2/1
	2/01	<b>DUE:</b> Research & Concept Statement; White Sketch up Rendering		
4	2/06	<b>DUE:</b>		<b>Reminder:</b> <i>Book Nook</i> Critique Day due 2/08

	2/ 08	<b>DUE:</b> <i>Book Nook</i> Critique Day	Read: <i>The Pillowman</i> for 2/13. Scenic Metaphor	Script Analysis Due 2/15
<b>5</b>	2/ 13	Discuss Reading; Scenic Metaphor Discuss <i>The Pillowman</i> <b>DUE:</b> Script Analysis;	Read: Drafting Techniques. Line Shape & Form	Research Board & Concept Statement Due 2/15 <b>Reminder:</b> Bring Drafting Supplies for 2/15
	2/ 15	<b>DUE:</b> Research & Concept Statement; Discuss: Line, Shape & Intro to Drafting –Ground plans		Ground Plan Due 2/22
<b>6</b>	2/ 20	<b>DUE:</b> <i>Ground plan</i>		Sketch Up rendering Due 2/22
	2/ 22	<b>DUE:</b> <i>Sketch up rendering</i>	Read: Tech drawing	White model (Finished) due 2/27
<b>7</b>	2/ 27	<b>DUE:</b> <i>White Model</i> Discuss Tech drawing	Read: Color	
	3/ 01	Discuss Color Painting Techniques		<b>Reminder:</b> Have painting supplies.
<b>8</b>	3/ 06	Paint Techiques and questions.		<b>Reminder:</b> <i>Te Pillowman</i> due 3/08
	3/ 08	<b>DUE:</b> <i>The Pilloman Project.</i>		<b>Reminder:</b> Read <i>R&amp;J</i> Script Analysis Due 3/20
<b>9</b>	3/ 20	Discuss <i>R&amp;J</i> ; <b>DUE:</b> Script Analysis;		Research Board & Concept Statement Due 3/22
	3/ 22	Discuss Designer/Director Relationship;		Reminder: Ground plan due 3/28

		<b>DUE:</b> Research & Concept Statement		
<b>10</b>	3/27	<b>DUE:</b> Ground Plan		Bring Rendering Supplies for 3/29 Reminder: Sketch up rendering due 3/29
	3/29	<b>DUE:</b> Sketch up rendering Rendering Exercise		<b>Reminder:</b> White Model due 4/3. Second review due 4/3
<b>11</b>	4/03	<b>DUE:</b> White model	Read: Scenic History & Scenic Elements	<b>Second Review Due</b>
	4/05	Discuss Reading; Scenic History & Scenic Elements		<b>Reminder:</b> <i>R&amp;J</i> Due 4/11
<b>12</b>	4/10	<b>DUE:</b> <i>R&amp;J</i> Project	Read: <i>Avenue Q</i>	<b>Reminder:</b>
	4/12	Discuss; <i>Avenue Q</i>		<b>Reminder:</b> Read & Listen to <i>Avenue Q</i> Script Analysis Due 4/17
<b>13</b>	4/17	<b>DUE:</b> Script Analysis <b>Working Lab</b>		Research Board and Concept Statement Due 4/19
	4/19	<b>DUE:</b> Research & Concept Statement/ground plan <b>Working Lab</b>		<b>Reminder:</b> Performance Reports Due 4/24
<b>14</b>	4/24	<b>Due:</b> Performance Reports; Sketch up render. <b>Working Lab</b>		Bring <i>Avenue Q</i> project (process) to class 4/27
	4/26	<b>DUE:</b> White Model Process Discussion; Q&A		<b>Reminder:</b> <i>Avenue Q</i> White Model Group Due 4/26
<b>15</b>	5/01	<b>Working Lab</b>		<b>Reminder:</b> <i>Avenue Q</i> project due on the day of the final
	5/03	<b>Working Lab</b>		

**Final Project due: May 10, 2023**

## **Institutional Policies and Guidelines**

**Grade Appeal Process:** Concerns about the accuracy of grades should first be discussed with the instructor. A request for a change of grade is a formal request and must be made within six months of the grade assignment. Directions for filing an appeal can be found in the student handbook [Student\\_Handbook\\_2022-2023\\_v4.pdf \(com.edu\)](#). An appeal will not be considered because of general dissatisfaction with a grade, penalty, or outcome of a course. Disagreement with the instructor's professional judgment of the quality of the student's work and performance is also not an admissible basis for a grade appeal.

**Academic Success & Support Services:** College of the Mainland is committed to providing students the necessary support and tools for success in their college careers. Support is offered through our Tutoring Services, Library, Counseling, and through Student Services. Please discuss any concerns with your faculty or an advisor.

**ADA Statement:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to contact Kimberly Lachney at 409-933-8919 or [klachney@com.edu](mailto:klachney@com.edu). The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is located in the Student Success Center.

**Textbook Purchasing Statement:** A student attending College of the Mainland is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from the college-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

**Withdrawal Policy:** Students may withdraw from this course for any reason prior to the last eligible day for a "W" grade. Before withdrawing students should speak with the instructor and consult an advisor. Students are permitted to withdraw only six times during their college career by state law. The last date to withdraw from the 1st 8-week session is March 1. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 24. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is May 3.

**F<sub>N</sub> Grading:** The F<sub>N</sub> grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The F<sub>N</sub> grade may be issued for cases in which the student ceases or fails to attend class, submit assignments, or participate in required capacities, and for which the student has failed to withdraw. The issuing of the F<sub>N</sub> grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an F<sub>N</sub> grade.



**Early Alert Program:** The Student Success Center at College of the Mainland has implemented an Early Alert Program because student success and retention are very important to us. I have been asked to refer students to the program throughout the semester if they are having difficulty completing assignments or have poor attendance. If you are referred to the Early Alert Program you will be contacted by someone in the Student Success Center who will schedule a meeting with you to see what assistance they can offer in order for you to meet your academic goals.

**Resources to Help with Stress:**

If you are experiencing stress or anxiety about your daily living needs including food, housing or just feel you could benefit from free resources to help you through a difficult time, please click here <https://www.com.edu/community-resource-center/>. College of the Mainland has partnered with free community resources to help you stay on track with your schoolwork, by addressing life issues that get in the way of doing your best in school. All services are private and confidential. You may also contact the Dean of Students office at [deanofstudents@com.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@com.edu) or [communityresources@com.edu](mailto:communityresources@com.edu).