



DRAM 2335 - 140C1
Theatre Design
Spring 2025
MW 11:00 a.m. –1:50 p.m.

Instructor Information: Curt Meyer. cmeyer4@com.edu. 409-933-8371

Student hours and location: MW 11:00-1:50 F A 100

Required Textbook/Materials:

Gulag Mouse - Arthur M. Jolly
Bound Sketch books (3)
Pencils
Scale Ruler
Model making supplies

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. **100%**

% BREAKDOWN OF FINAL GRADE:

Class Participation -
25% *Book Nook* -
25% *Gulag Mouse-*
25% *Drawing Journal*
10% *Performance Reports* -
15% *LAB*

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 on the day the student returns to class. Make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor. Extra credit work will be given 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.

Student Learner Outcome	Maps to Core Objective	Assessed via this Assignment
1. Apply a vocabulary and Knowledge of the environment, Tools and skills to mount a theatrical production.	Communication	PROJECT 1 Final design =50% DRAWING JOURNAL -25% LAB -15%
1. Demonstrate knowledge of the variety of work required to mount a	Communication Skills Critical Thinking	Theatrical critique Paper- 10% Final Design Project – 25%
3. Describe the collaborative nature of production with in theatre arts.	Teamwork Social Responsibility Communication Skills Critical Thinking	Final Design Project –20%

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 Fine Arts Department Chair, Dr. Kristina Jantz at 409-933-8255 or kjantz@com.edu

Course outline:

CLASS SCHEDULE

You are expected to read the material indicated prior to the class period in which it will be discussed

<u>Week One:</u>	Introduction / Introduction to Drawing
<u>Week Two:</u>	<u>MLK</u> Design Principals / Script Analysis/Drawing exercise
<u>Week Three:</u>	Research / Scenic Metaphor/ Drawing Exercise Composition/ Design Boards/ Pinterest Assignment
<u>Week Four:</u>	Critique/ Floor plan/ Rendering <u>(Project 1 Due)</u> Concept Statement/ Costume & Lighting Design. Final Overview/ Drawing Exercise
<u>Week Five:</u>	Sketch Up Tutorial Line/ Shape/ Color theory/ Drawing Exercise
<u>Week Six:</u>	Designer Director Relationship/ Scenic Elements/ Drawing exercise Painting / Model buildingTechniques
<u>Week Seven:</u>	Model Construction Model Painting. <u>(Performance review Due)</u>
<u>Week Eight:</u>	Design Quality Critique <u>(Final Project Due)(Drawing Journal Due)</u>

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 [https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student Handbook 2024-2025 v2.pdf](https://www.com.edu/student-services/docs/Student_Handbook_2024-2025_v2.pdf). *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, Student Accessibility Services Coordinator

Phone: 409-933-8919

Email: AccessibilityServices@com.edu

Location: COM Doyle Family Administration Building, 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 February 26. The last date to withdraw from the 16-week session is April 21. The last date to withdraw for the 2nd 8-week session is April 30.

FN Grading: The FN grade is issued in cases of *failure due to a lack of attendance*, as determined by the instructor. The FN 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 FN grade is at the discretion of the instructor. The last date of attendance should be documented for submission of an FN 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 or communityresources@com.edu.

Nondiscrimination Statement:

The College District prohibits discrimination, including harassment, against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity and gender expression), or any other basis prohibited by law. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of College District policy.