Weber State University

THEA 3100: Projection Design / Fall 2013

Tues/Thurs 12:00 PM- 1:15 PM

**Instructor:**

Jessica Greenberg **Office:** Browning Center302

**Office hours:** Weds 3pm-5pm

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Though the use of slide projections has a long history in the theatre, it is only within the last 10 years that projection design has become a significant design element in many theatre productions. With the advent of easily accessible and user-friendly digital equipment and software, as well as the brighter and more intense luminosity of projection devices, projection design (video, HD, still frame, etc.) has established its place in live performance. In this course we examine the history of projection design in theatre performance leading up to current practices. We will question the use of projection design in today’s theatre while we experiment with strategies for its inclusion. Students will be given an introduction to the “tools” of projection design in a studio setting as they advance through a series of exercises and independent projects.

**Course Objectives:**

Students will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the history of projection design leading up to present day.

- Develop a concept for the projected image world of a piece of theater.

- Find and create content that fulfills their concept of the world of their design.

- Assemble the essential components of a projection system and implement its proper use.

- Learn software program *Qlab*, and an introduction to *Isadora*.

- Learn basic video editing.

**Program Outcomes for Theatre:**

**1.** Have writing skills and ability to use research tools (library, internet, etc.).

**7.** Have the ability to critically evaluate what they and others have created.

**8.** Develop necessary skills to be proficient in at least one area of theatre (performance, teaching, technical/design-costume, technical/design-scenery, technical/design-lighting, technical/design-sound, directing, theatre management, or playwriting), with the ability to identify, analyze and resolve specific problems pertaining to that area.

**10.** Have experience with individual and collaborative processes needed to produce and understand theatre.

**Attendance:** The Theatre area recognizes the importance of class participation and performance. To this end we enforce the following attendance policy: Tuesday/Thursday classes are allowed 2 absences, Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes are allowed 3 absences, however these absences may not be on a scheduled test day. Once the allowed absence limit has been reached the student's grade will drop incrementally for each additional absence.

Example: Mitzi, an “A” student, has missed 3 classes in a MWF theatre class. Today she is missing class and her grade will drop to an A-. If she misses the next class, her grade will drop to a B+. 1 more absence and she will have dropped a full letter grade to a B.

Tardies are as important an issue as absences. Therefore, 2 tardies equal 1 absence. Students should plan ahead and use absences and tardies wisely.

**Required Text:**

Readings will be made available on the class website.

**Required Technology:**

**Required**: Flash Drive for media. Optional: A laptop with free student version of *QLab* (Mac only). Headphones – closed back.

**Late Policy:**

Work is considered late if it is not turned in at the beginning of the class period for which the assignment is due. Computer or printer problems do not constitute a valid excuse, the work will still be considered late. Work submitted late will lose a full letter grade per 24 hour period for the first three days, after which they will no longer be accepted and will receive a zero. Late work may be submitted to my box in the DPA main office (have the person at the front desk sign for it and mark the time it was received). Late work will not be accepted via email. There will be no extensions for presentations or the written work which accompanies them; failure to present or submit written work on the assigned date will result in a 0 for the assignment.

**Evaluation:**

A student’s final grade for the class will be determined by dividing the total number of points earned over the course of the semester by 1000 (the total possible points).   There may be some opportunities for extra credit throughout the semester, however there will be NO individual assignments for extra credit, nor any extra credit after the final grade in the class is determined.

**Outcomes Assessment:**

Journals   (15)                                                             200 Points                                           20%

*Subjective Assessment*

Performance Response Papers 200 Points                                           20%

*Subjective Assessment*

Editing & Cue Lists (2)                                              200 Points                                           20%

*Subjective Assessment*

Final Project                                                   200 Points                                           20%

*Subjective Assessment*

Participation and Crew Hours                                   200 Points                                          20%

**Total**                                                                           1000 Points                                         100%

**Extra Credit Opportunities:**

Attend and write a 1 page response due 1 week later. Up to 50 points on your final grade.

*Guerilla Girls* lecture on Wed Sept 11th at 7pm in the Kimball Visual Arts Center. Event is free.

*Orchesis Dance Theatre*, Nov 14, 15, or 16 at 7:30pm in Browning Center Allred Theater. $9.

Any 1 performance with the music program.

**Respecting the Lab:**

You will need to use the technology lab to complete homework assignments. The complete lab schedule will be available soon. It is currently not open on late nights or weekends. Please respect this space and the equipment. Bottled water only, no food allowed.

**Assignments:**

**READINGS**

You will complete assigned readings and come to class ready to discuss.

**JOURNALS**

Once each week, describe in detail an example of moving image you observe in the world. Include the date, time of day, weather conditions, and the location of your observations. Look for: how the environment changes, how this affects your experience of a space. Write down your impressions of how you feel observing the moving image. Be as poetic as you like.

**PRODUCTION HOURS**

You will be required to do 5 hours of audio or projection related production work over the course of the semester on Weber Theatre Productions THE PLAIN PRINCESS and / or OF MYTH AND MUD. You will have a crew hours sheet to be signed by a supervisor confirming your work. Scheduling information to come.

**PERFORMANCE RESPONSES**

Students are required to attend two productions over the course of the semester. Two are the official Weber State theatre performances Of Myth And Mud and Plain Princess. Each of the performance responses will count for 10% of the final grade for a total of 20%.

These production responses should be 2 pages, be typed, double spaced, using normal font and margins. They ask you to observe, describe, and respond to the production in question. They should be well-organized essays with an introduction, a multi-paragraph body, and a conclusion.

**FINAL SCENE PROJECT**

You will present a small but complete piece of theatre with actors, accompanied by your projection design. Choose a song to use as a place to start. Tell a story through your staging and your projected content. You will use software programs and technology to realize your piece. You will speak eloquently about your work and present to the class.

**EDITING & CUE LIST (2)**

You will use software *QLab*, *Quicktime*, and *Isadora* in 3 short assignments. You must demonstrate an understanding of the basic tools in these programs to implement your artistic choices.

**Week #1, Class 1-2**

Aug 27 Tues Introduction. Syllabus. What is projection design?

Aug 29 Thur History and Early Technology

Readings Due: “When the Stage Goes Two Dimensional”

 “The Prevalence of Projections”

**Week #2. Class 3-4**

Sept 3 Tues History and Modern Technology

Sept 5 Thur Color, Pattern, and Projected Light

Reading Due**:** “Live Movies: A Personal (Future) History of Multimedia Performance” by Kirby Malone

**Week #3, Class 5-6**

Sept 10 Tues *Quicktime*/ VLC/ Downloading Content.

Sept 12 Thur *Quicktime*/ VLC/ Displaying Content.

Reading Due**:** “How do you Teach Magic?” in Live Design

**Week #4, Class 7-8**

Sept 17 Tues Using *Powerpoint* and *Keynote* as tools

Sept 19 Thur Discuss reading WATER BY THE SPOONFUL

**Week #5, Class 9-10**

Sept 24 Tues Present Assignment

Sept 26 Thur Introduction to *QLab*

**Week #6, Class 11-12**

Oct 1 Tues *Qlab* continued

Oct 3 Thur *Qlab* continued

***(Theatre Dept Performances Oct 4-12. Please attend )***

**Week #7, Class 13-14**

Oct 8 Tues Image Research, Acquisition and Processing

Oct 10 Thur Projector Specs- Aspect Ratio, Throw Ratio, Lenses, etc.

**Week #8, Class 15-16**

Oct 15 Tue Managing Multiple image outputs

Due: Performance Response paper

Oct 17 Thur Present *Qlab* assignment

**Week #9, Class 17-18**

Oct 22 Tues Begin work on final project with actors

Oct 24 Thur Projecting on 3 dimensional surfaces

**Week #10, Class 19-20**

Oct 29 Tues Projecting live action.

Oct 31 Th Signal Flow.

**Week #11, Class 21-22**

Nov 5 Tues Gridding & Mapping

Nov 7 Thur Editing Still Images

***(Theatre Dept Performances Nov 8-16. Please attend)***

**Week #12, Class 23-24**

Nov 12 Tues Introduction to *Isadora*

Nov 14 Thur *Isadora* continued

**Week #13, Class 25-26**

Nov 19 Tues Prominent Projection Designers today

Due: Performance Response paper

Nov 21 Thur Interactive Projection

**Week #14, Class 27-28**

Nov 26 Tues In Class Work Session with actors

Nov 28 Thur HOLIDAY NO CLASS

**Week #15, Class 29-30**

Dec 3 Tues Final Project Presenations

Dec 5 Thur Final Project Presentations

*The above syllabus is an approximate schedule and subject to change. Adjustments will be announced.*

**UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

**Academic Dishonesty:** As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (uncited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course. Plagiarism is a violation of he WSU student code and is not acceptable in this course. WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work.

**Core Beliefs:** According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student's core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student's request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student's beliefs.” As a note, I am not willing to censor your fellow students and their writing. Each student has an individual voice and it is very likely topics and language will come up that may be offensive to some.

**Department Course Content Policy**: Some of the writings, lectures, discussions or presentations in this course may include material that some students may find offensive. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. If you have a concern, please discuss it with me at your earliest convenience.

**Disability Accommodation:** PPM 3-34 notes: “When students seek accommodation in a regularly scheduled course, they have the responsibility to make such requests at the Center for Students with Disabilities before the beginning of the quarter [semester] in which the accommodation is being requested. When a student fails to make such arrangements, interim accommodations can be made by the instructor, pending the determination of the request for a permanent accommodation.”

**Counseling Services:** College can be stressful. We all need a little help sometimes. Please remember that there are completely free services available to talk with someone about small or large issues you might encounter in any part of your life. Call the Counseling Center at 801-626-6406

or visit http://www.weber.edu/counselingcenter/

**Emergency Closure:** If for any reason the university is forced to close for an extended period of time, we will conduct our class via Canvas. Look for announcements through Weber email and on Canvas.