

COURSE OUTLINE

Theatre Arts 129 Backstage Lab for Performers

Catalog Statement

T ART 129 is a course designed to introduce performance students to the backstage aspects of technical theatre. Student work on projects that directly support the dance, music or theatre production in which they are concurrently enrolled. Through the analysis and implementation of production designs for scenery, lights and sound, they gain a greater understanding of the relationship between performance and the backstage support.

Total Lecture Units: 0.0

Total Laboratory Units: 1.0

Total Course Units: 1.0

Total Lecture Hours: 0.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 3.0

Total Laboratory Hours To Be Arranged: 0.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Prerequisite: None.

Corequisite: Enrollment in one of the following: DANCE 135, MUSIC 143, 146, 147, 170, 231, 235, 236, 237, T ART 160, 161, 162, 163, 164.

Note: This class will be limited to twenty students.

Course Entry Expectations

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

- recognize the professional responsibilities associated with the audition, preparation, and performance;
- recognize and use backstage and shop terminology, tools, materials, and techniques;
- organize a basic scenic construction project, while working safely;
- analyze scenic production problems, evaluate alternatives, and recommend solutions;
- work collaboratively with designers, technicians, and other theatre personnel;
- demonstrate and employ skills to address the technical demands of a production;
- execution of assignments and responsibilities in technical rehearsals, during production run, and strike.

Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- analyze project designs;
- use tools for the construction of scenery;
- construct two dimensional and three dimensional scenery;

- paint scenery, including faux wood and marble;
- set-up portable lighting and sound equipment;
- hang and focus stage lights;
- practice the safe handling of stage props;
- demonstrate backstage etiquette.

Course Content

Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48.0

Course content and expectations (1 hour)

Procedure and safety review (4 hour)

Backstage etiquette and procedures

Paint hazards and contamination

Handling scene shop equipment

Proper handling of stage props

Analysis of technical information (5 hour)

Interpretation of scenic drawings, plans, and models

Reading of light plots, hook-up schedules, and magic sheets

Sound riser diagrams and plots

Implementation and analysis of project designs (38 hour)

Methods of Instruction

The following methods of instruction may be used in this course:

- collaborative learning;
- laboratory practice;
- demonstration.

Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in this course:

- group projects (e.g. research project on faux finishes, a specific property such as a 1920's telephone, or the northern lights related to production specificity).

Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in this course:

- written and verbal evaluations of production project (e.g. did student select specific faux finish based on instruction and research from the given play/project);
- quiz on safety procedures and tools.

Textbooks

Carter, Paul and George Chang. *Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information*. 3rd ed. Shelter Island: Broadway, 1994. Print
12th Grade Reading Level. ISBN 13: 978-0911747393.

*textbook currently in print with 1994 publication date.

Campbell, Drew. *Technical Theatre For Non-Technical People*. Allworth Press, New York, 2004. Print
12th Grade Reading Level. ISBN 13: 978-158-1153446.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate effective backstage etiquette;
- demonstrate the understanding of the collaborative process in dance, theatre, or music production;
- demonstrate competency in at least two areas: two dimensional scenery construction, properties construction, light hang, striking scenery, painting scenery or properties.