

COURSE OUTLINE

**Theatre Arts 172 (C-ID Number: THTR 172)  
Introduction to Theatre Design (C-ID Title: Introduction to Theatre Design)**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Theatre Arts 172 is a survey of scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, properties, theatrical equipment and construction techniques. Through demonstration and laboratory experiences, students gain an understanding of the organization of theatre (technical personnel) as well as an appreciation for theatrical design.

Total Lecture/Demonstration Units: 2.0

Total Laboratory Units: 1.0

**Total Course Units: 3.0**

Total Lecture Hours: 32.0

Total Laboratory Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 80.0**

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5; Writing 5; Listening/Speaking 5; Math 2.

Recommended Preparation: ART 130 or equivalent

**III. Course Exit Standards**

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

1. define and distinguish between commonly used theatrical terms applied to design and the technical elements of theatre production;
2. define and evaluate the relationship between design concepts and how they are translated and executed in the production process;
3. demonstrate a design project from concept to completion (e.g. read a play, organize the elements of a design such as costume, lighting, sound, set, and execute the design through rendering, recording, building, drawing);
4. demonstrate and apply basic skills used in theatrical production (e.g. reading a ground plan, composing a cue sheet, draw or render a costume for a character);
5. demonstrate proficiency in the operations of the areas of technical theatre;
6. outline and analyze the steps necessary to coordinate and integrate the various aspects of theatre production from concept to execution.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 80**

A. Organization of Technical Theatre Personnel	Lecture 4 hours Lab 6 hours
1. Design meetings	
2. Technical director	
3. Running crew	
4. Stage management	
5. Master electrician	
6. Shop foreman	
7. Master contractor	
B. Theatre Architecture	Lecture 4 hours Lab 2 hours
1. Theatre forms	
2. Ancillary theatre equipment	
C. Elements of Stage Design	Lecture 12 hours Lab 16 hours
1. Scenery and set dressing	
2. Sound and lights	
3. Costumes and makeup	
4. Stage and hand properties	
5. Construction	
6. Scene painting	
7. Installation	
D. The Fundamentals of Design	Lecture 12 hours Lab 24 hours
1. Composition and the elements of design	
2. The principles of composition	
a. Unity	
b. Interest	
3. Perspective-sketch techniques	
a. Perspective floor plan	
b. Two-dimensional perspective	
b. Three-dimensional perspective	
4. Design Concept	
a. Analysis of the play	
b. Preliminary studies and research	
5. Presentation of the design idea	
a. The sketch	
b. The model	
6. Drawing and rendering techniques	
7. Computer-aided design methods	

## **V. Methods of Instruction**

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

1. lectures;
2. demonstrations;
3. design project from a play;

## **VI. Out of Class Assignments**

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

1. research project (e.g. research time period of assigned play and present);
2. presentations (e.g. design presentation of model, drawings, research);
3. design project from a play;
4. written assignments based on play readings (e.g. discuss the costumes and makeup for *Bat Boy*, *The Musical* and the significance to the play).

## **VII. Methods of Evaluation**

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

1. attendance/class participation;
2. presentations;
3. lab activities (e.g. building, painting, set dressing);
4. portfolios (e.g. renderings and research for a given play);
5. quizzes;
6. critiques of plays in production;
7. assessment of activities showing comprehension of course exit standards.

## **VIII. Textbook**

Gillette, John M. *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume and Make Up*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition. New York, New York: McGraw-Hill. 2012. Print.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-338222-7

## **IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

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

1. synthesize knowledge of a play through creation of a design;
2. support theatrical design as a visual art.