

# THTR 353

## SCENE DESIGN

MWF 10:30-11:20 CFTA ROOM 210

INSTRUCTOR: JIM BILLINGS —OFFICE: CFTA SCENE SHOP ROOM 135B

PH: 646-5041 OFFICE HOURS BY APPOINTMENT

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### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

THTR 141,142 ARE NO LONGER PRE-REQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE FOR THEATRE MAJORS.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

THIS COURSE AIMS TO TEACH SCENE DESIGN THROUGH A SERIES OF PROJECTS AND EXERCISES WHICH AIM TO DEVELOP SKILL, KNOWLEDGE AND CONFIDENCE IN SCENIC DESIGN TECHNIQUES.

THIS IS A HANDS-ON, PROJECT DRIVEN COURSE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL PROJECTS BE DONE ON TIME AND IN THE PRESCRIBED ORDER. LATE PROJECTS MAY ONLY BE ACCEPTED AT INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION WITH PENALTY.

THIS IS NOT A DRAWING COURSE. ACHIEVEMENT IS MEASURED IN IDEAS, PRESENTATION, COMMUNICATION AND EFFORT - NOT DRAWING ABILITY.

### COURSE GOALS:

UPON COMPLETING THIS COURSE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO:

ANALYZE DESIGN USING ACCEPTED TERMINOLOGY.

UNDERSTAND BASIC DESIGN IDEAS AND CONCEPTS.

ANALYZE AND CREATE A DESIGN FOR A PLAY INCLUDING SCENOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTS.

UNDERSTAND THE COMMUNICATION PROCESS DESIGNERS USE.

BE ABLE TO PRESENT IDEAS WITH CLARITY AND CONFIDENCE.

BE ABLE TO READ AND UNDERSTAND DESIGN DOCUMENTS.

### TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

THERE IS NO REQUIRED TEXTBOOK FOR THIS COURSE. EACH STUDENT WILL NEED TO ACQUIRE THE FOLLOWING BASIC TOOLS - WAIT UNTIL WE TALK ABOUT THEM IN CLASS TO PURCHASE.

ERASER, 30/60 TRIANGLE, 45 TRIANGLE, HB, 2H,4H AND 6H PENCILS, 7 OR MORE SHEETS OF VELLUM-18X24 AN ARCHITECT'S SCALE, VARIOUS ART SUPPLIES - DEPENDING ON APPROACH TO PROJECT SOLUTIONS

### WORKING RULES:

CELL PHONE USE - INCLUDING TEXTING IS PROHIBITED DURING CLASS TIME AS IS THE USE OF OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES WITHOUT INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL.

EATING AND DRINKING IN THE WORKSPACE IS PROHIBITED.

SMOKING IS NOT ALLOWED IN ANY NMSU BUILDING.

CLEAN YOUR WORK SPACE

BE RESPECTFUL, THE GOLDEN RULE APPLIES.

### COMMUNICATION:

ANY E-MAIL COMMUNICATION WILL BE CONDUCTED WITH THE STUDENT'S NMSU E-MAIL ACCOUNT.

### GRADING:

WEEKLY PROJECTS AND SKILL BUILDERS = 60%

FINAL PROJECT = 30%

ATTENDANCE/PARTICIPATION = 10%

MY GRADING SCALE IS:

FOR EXCEPTIONAL WORK 100-90% = "A"

FOR GOOD WORK 89-80% = "B"

FOR COMPLETED, AVERAGE WORK 79-70% = "C"

FOR BELOW AVERAGE WORK 69-60% = "D"

FOR WORK THAT IS FAILING OR INCOMPLETE 59% OR LESS = "F"

I DO NOT USE FRACTIONAL GRADING. MINIMUM PASSING GRADE FOR "S" OPTION STUDENTS WILL BE "C" WORK.

## ATTENDANCE:

LECTURES AND DEMONSTRATIONS FORM THE MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION IN THIS COURSE, CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO COME TO EVERY CLASS. ATTENDANCE WILL BE TAKEN. YOU ARE ALLOWED TO MISS 4 CLASS PERIODS DURING THE SEMESTER FOR ANY REASON, WITHOUT PENALTY. EACH CLASS MISSED BEYOND 4 ABSENCES IS CONSIDERED TO BE UNEXCUSED. SIGNED MEDICAL EXCUSES ALLOW YOU TO MAKE UP WORK MISSED, AND DO NOT ERASE ABSENCES.

FAILURE TO ATTEND CLASS WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE IN THIS CLASS. THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY DROP STUDENTS FOR LACK OF ATTENDANCE, BUT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DO SO, WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE IF A STUDENT MISSES 3 CONSECUTIVE CLASS MEETINGS.

## COURSE EXPECTATIONS

I EXPECT YOUR FULL ATTENTION, AND VERY BEST WORK. THEREFORE I HAVE A STRICT POLICY AGAINST THE UN AUTHORIZED USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING CLASS TIME. I ALSO EXPECT THAT YOU WILL BE RESPECTFUL OF OTHER STUDENTS AND LISTEN AND RESPOND RESPECTFULLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY DURING DISCUSSIONS.

IN RETURN, I PROMISE THAT I WILL ALWAYS MAKE TIME FOR YOU. I WILL LISTEN AND RESPOND RESPECTFULLY IN DISCUSSIONS AND TO ANY COMMENTS OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.

### PRELIMINARY COURSE SCHEDULE:

## SECTION 1 BUILDING OUR TOOLBOX

### WEEK #1 JANUARY 22,24

GOALS: GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER, OUTLINE EXPECTATIONS, DEVELOP PRESENTATION SKILLS  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: THE JOB OF THE SCENIC DESIGNER, WHAT IS SCENIC DESIGN AND WHAT IS DESIGN?  
HANDOUTS: SYLLABUS, PRESENTATION SKILLS, PROJECT SHEET #1 - "TOONS"  
ACTIVITY: CLASS INTRODUCTIONS/EXPECTATIONS, DISCUSSION

### WEEK #2 JANUARY 27,29,31

GOALS: BEGIN BUILDING A "TOOLBOX" OF TECHNIQUES AND IDEAS, EXPLORE DIFFERENT MARK-MAKING TECHNIQUES  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: THE DESIGNER'S TOOLBOX, RELEARNING WHAT YOUR EDUCATION MADE YOU UNLEARN, THE VALUE OF SIMPLE WORK (GRAY SCALE)  
HANDOUTS: GRAY SCALE TEMPLATE, LECTURE SHEETS, PROJECT #2 PROJECT SHEET  
ACTIVITY: CREATE A GRAY SCALE -5 STEPS, PROJECT #2- 3 WORDS #1

### WEEK #3 FEBRUARY 3, 5, 7

GOALS: CONTINUE BUILDING TOOLBOX, LEARN TO LETTER LIKE A DESIGNER  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: PRESENTATION, LETTERING AND MODES OF COMMUNICATION  
HANDOUTS: STYLE SHEET, GRAPHIC INGREDIENTS SHEETS, WEEKLY PROJECT SHEET #3, SKILLS #3  
ACTIVITY: PRACTICE PENMANSHIP, PROJECT #3- 3 WORDS PART 2

### WEEK #4 FEBRUARY 10, 12, 14

GOALS: LEARNING DIFFERENT WAY OF LOOKING AT THINGS - ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS AND INFLUENCES  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: ARTISTIC MOVEMENTS AND INFLUENCES  
HANDOUTS: PROJECT #4 SHEET GREAT PAINTINGS  
ACTIVITY: LEARN HOW TO USE A SCALE RULE, SKILLS #4- PROJECT #4

### WEEK #5 FEBRUARY 17, 19, 21

GOALS: UNDERSTANDING DESIGN AS LANGUAGE  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: DESIGN COMMUNICATION TOOLS  
HANDOUTS: PROJECT #5 SHEET- ONE OBJECT: 3 WAYS, SKILLS #5  
ACTIVITY: USING YOUR DRAFTING TOOLS - LINES, GEOMETRY, ETC.

### WEEK #6 FEBRUARY 24, 26, 28

GOALS: DEVELOP A BACK ROUND IN DESIGN HISTORY  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: HISTORY OF THEATRE SPACES AND DESIGN  
HANDOUTS: PROJECT #6 - PERSONAL AD, SKILLS #6  
ACTIVITY: BASIC PERSPECTIVE SKILLS

## SECTION 2 - BUILDING SKILLS

### WEEK #7 MARCH 2, 4, 6

GOALS: START APPLYING SKILLS TO SCENIC DESIGN  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: READING A SCRIPT AS A DESIGNER  
HANDOUTS: SKILL SHEET, PROJECT #7, READING SCRIPT, RESEARCH CHECKLIST, SCRIPT  
ACTIVITY: SHADED SKETCH - SKILLS #7, PROJECT #7 - INTERNAL RESEARCH

### WEEK #8 MARCH 9, 11, 13

GOALS: BEGIN TO DRAFT  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: DRAWINGS  
HANDOUTS: LANGUAGE OF LINES, SKILLS #8, PROJECT #8  
ACTIVITY: PROJECT #8 GREAT PAINTINGS AGAIN - MORE PERSPECTIVE

### WEEK #9 MARCH 16, 18, 20

GOALS: DRAFTING, THINKING IN 3D  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: DRAWING TYPES  
HANDOUTS: ISOMETRIC/ORTHOGRAPHIC PROJECT  
ACTIVITY: WEEKLY PROJECT 9, BUILDING A PAPER OBJECT

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 23-27

## WEEK #10 MARCH 30, APRIL 1, 3

GOALS: FLOOR PLAN FOR BEFORE BREAKFAST  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: WHAT IS A FLOOR PLAN - WHY IS IT SO DARN IMPORTANT?  
HANDOUTS: FLOOR PLAN CHECK LIST  
ACTIVITY: FINISH PROJECT 9 AND 10

## WEEK #11 APRIL 6, 8 SPRING HOLIDAY APRIL 10

GOALS: ELEVATIONS FOR BEFORE BREAKFAST  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: ELEVATIONS AND PLATFORM DRAWINGS  
HANDOUTS: CHECKLIST FOR ELEVATIONS  
ACTIVITY: PROJECT 11 - ELEVATIONS

# SECTION 3 THE DESIGN

## WEEK #12 APRIL 13, 15, 17

GOALS: BEGIN FINAL DESIGN, CONCEPT, STATEMENT OF DESIGN, RESEARCH  
DISCUSSION/LECTURE TOPIC: INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS OF DESIGN IDEAS FOR CLASS DISCUSSION

## WEEK #13 APRIL 20, 22, 24

GOALS: FLOORPLAN FOR FINAL DESIGN

## WEEK #14 APRIL 27, 29, MAY 1

GOALS: FINISH DRAFTINGS FOR FINAL DESIGN

## WEEK #15 MAY 4, 6, 8

GOALS: SHADED SKETCH OR MODEL FOR FINAL DESIGN

## MAY 11, 10:30 AM FINAL EXAM

FINISHED DESIGN WITH CONCEPT STATEMENT, RESEARCH, FLOOR PLAN, ELEVATIONS AND SHADED SKETCH/MODEL AND PRESENTATION

## LATE WORK

THEATRE IS A PROFESSION DRIVEN BY DEADLINES. LATE WORK WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES. LATE WORK THAT IS ACCEPTED WILL LOSE 5% PER CLASS DAY. IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE WORK.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT: THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT DEFINES ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT, NON-ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT AND THE CONSEQUENCES OR PENALTIES FOR EACH. THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT IS AVAILABLE IN THE NMSU STUDENT HANDBOOK ONLINE:

[HTTP://STUDENTHANDBOOK.NMSU.EDU/](http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/)

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT IS EXPLAINED HERE:

[HTTP://STUDENTHANDBOOK.NMSU.EDU/STUDENT-CODE-OF-CONDUCT/ACADEMIC-MISCONDUCT/](http://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-code-of-conduct/academic-misconduct/)

I HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY.

IF YOU DO SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK OR USE SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK AND I BECOME AWARE OF IT, YOU WILL BE DISMISSED FROM THE CLASS AND REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT HEAD AND DEAN'S OFFICE.

## ACCESSIBILITY SUPPORT

SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 AND THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AMENDMENTS ACT (ADA) COVERS ISSUES RELATING TO DISABILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS. IF A STUDENT HAS QUESTIONS OR NEEDS AN ACCOMMODATION IN THE CLASSROOM (ALL MEDICAL INFORMATION IS TREATED CONFIDENTIALLY), CONTACT:

MAIN CAMPUS  
STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES (SAS)  
CORBETT CENTER STUDENT UNION ROOM 208  
TRUDY LUKEN, DIRECTOR  
575-646-6840

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY, IN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS AND IN FURTHERANCE OF ITS COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT THAT WELCOMES AND EMBRACES DIVERSITY, DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE ON THE BASIS OF AGE, ANCESTRY, COLOR, DISABILITY, GENDER IDENTITY, GENETIC INFORMATION, NATIONAL ORIGIN, RACE, RELIGION, RETALIATION, SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION, SEX (INCLUDING PREGNANCY), SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SPOUSAL AFFILIATION, OR PROTECTED VETERAN STATUS IN ITS PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING EMPLOYMENT, ADMISSIONS, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES. INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE LAURA CASTILLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TITLE IX AND SECTION 504 COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY, P.O. Box 30001, E. 1130 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, LAS CRUCES, NM 88003; 575.646.3635; 575-646-7802 (TTY); [EQUITY@NMSU.EDU](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu).

TITLE IX PROHIBITS SEX HARASSMENT, SEXUAL ASSAULT, INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE, STALKING AND RETALIATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON DISCRIMINATION OR TITLE IX, OR TO FILE A COMPLAINT CONTACT:

LAURA CASTILLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND TITLE IX COORDINATOR  
OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL EQUITY (OIE) - O'LOUGHLIN HOUSE, 1130 UNIVERSITY AVENUE  
PHONE: (575) 646-3635  
E-MAIL: [EQUITY@NMSU.EDU](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)  
WEBSITE: [HTTP://EQUITY.NMSU.EDU/](http://equity.nmsu.edu/)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

THE ICT CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER IS EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH ALL OF YOUR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS AT NMSU. THE ICT CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER HOURS OF OPERATION ARE FROM 8:00 AM UNTIL 5:00 PM MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY MOUNTAIN TIME. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT THEM AT 646-1840 OR VIA E-MAIL AT [HELPDESK@NMSU.EDU](mailto:helpdesk@nmsu.edu). YOU CAN ALSO GO TO THE [STUDENT TECHNOLOGY HELP](#) WEB PAGE AND [STUDENT RESOURCES](#) LOCATED AT THE [CANVAS](#) WEB PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CANVAS.

## SYLLABUS MODIFICATION

THE SYLLABUS IS THE "ROAD MAP" FOR THIS COURSE. IT ALLOWS BOTH THE STUDENT AND THE INSTRUCTOR TO HAVE AN IDEA WHERE WE ARE GOING, AS WELL AS ALLOWING US TO SEE WHERE WE HAVE BEEN. DATES AND TOPICS MAY SHIFT, DEPENDING ON CLASS DISCUSSIONS AND PACING. I MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STAY WITH THE SYLLABUS, BUT I DO RESERVE THE RIGHT TO TAKE THE OCCASIONAL "SIDE TRIP" AS WAY OF ENHANCING THE CLASS. ANY MAJOR CHANGES, ESPECIALLY CHANGES FOR DUE DATES, QUIZZES OR EXAMS WILL SHOW UP AS AN ANNOUNCEMENT VIA E-MAIL AND WILL BE NOTED IN CLASS.