



St. Olaf College Theater Department

Theater 140 Introduction to Design for Performance

Course E-mail Alias: th-140 Mail sent to this address is received by the entire class

Tuesday: 11:45-1:10 Thursday: 12:45-2:05 Theater Building 216 Fall Semester 2019

Texts : • *Fundamentals of Theatrical Design* by Karen Brewster/ Melissa Shafer.

Allworth Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-1-58115-849-6. Available in paperback or ebook.

• *Sculpting Space in the Theatre* by Babak Ebrahimian. Focal Press/ Elsevier 2006. ISBN: 0-240-80866-5

This text has been out of print. An electronic file is available on the course moodle site.

• *Essentials of Period Style* by Hal Tiné. Focal Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-415-71005-3 paperback.

Course Description: The attributes of the things we see and hear in the performances that we attend contribute strongly to our experience as an audience. This course considers the elements and principles of design and their application to performance work. Students will study the performance space, scenery elements, costuming, lighting & shadow and the aural experience that the audience encounters during a performance. Problem-solving, collaboration, and design development will be included in project work.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Understand and apply the ability to think about ideas and concepts in a visual way.
- 2) Develop problem-solving abilities relating to design for performance.
- 3) Develop an understanding & awareness of visual historical styles & trends.
- 4) Become familiar with significant designers & their process of working.
- 5) Develop an understanding of the processes and skills involved in performance design work as well as an appreciation of the contributions of performance to cultural understanding.
- 6) Apply this understanding in analysis and design project work.

Course Information:

- Class Attendance is required and will affect the final course grade.
- Students in the course are required to see the following performances during the semester: (Tickets are free)

Date	Performance	Performance Times	Location
10/4–10/6	Theater: <i>She Kills Monsters</i> Tickets: http://www.stolaf.edu/apps/tickets/	Oct. 4-5 @ 7:30pm, Oct. 5 @ 2pm Oct 6 @ 1pm and 6pm	Haugen Theater in the Theater Building
11/15-17 11/21-23	Theater: <i>Cloud 9</i> Tickets: http://www.stolaf.edu/apps/tickets/	Nov.15-16 & 21-23 @ 7:30pm Nov. 17 @2pm	Kelsey Theater, Theater Bldg
12/5-12/7 & 12/8	Music: <i>Christmas Festival</i> Watch for email announcement about tickets in October.	Dec 5-7 @ 7:30pm Dec. 8 @ 3:00pm	Skoglund Auditorium
12/10-12/11	Dance: Senior Dance Concert Tickets: No tickets required	Dec. 10 & 11 @ 7:30pm	Kelsey Theater, Theater Bldg

Course Assignments:

- Reading assignments as detailed.
- Attending performances; writing assignments, in-class projects and class discussion.
- Design Project Assignments (Scenic Environment project, Costume design project, Light Lab project, and Sound Environment project).
- Exams: Quizzes and Final Exam.

Late Project Work: Late project work will be graded down one grade increment per class period.

Evaluation: Below is the anticipated breakdown of the final evaluation in the class:

Writing Assignments & in-class projects	15%
Design Project Assignments	60%
Quizzes	25%

See the "Class Schedule" for details and sequencing of the course.

Contact Information: Brian Bjorklund email: bjorklun@stolaf.edu voice: x3242

Cell Phones, Computers & Tablets: Using these devices for non-class activities is distracting. Wait until class is over.

I am committed to supporting the learning of all students in my class. If you have already registered with Disability and Access (DAC) and have your letter of accommodations, please meet with me early in the course to discuss, plan, and implement your accommodations in the course. If you have or think you have a disability (learning, sensory, physical, chronic health, mental health or attentional), please contact Disability and Access staff to discuss possible accommodations. More information can be found by visiting wp.stolaf.edu/asc/dac.

Other Resources: The Writing Place: <http://wp.stolaf.edu/asc/writing-help/>. The Speaking Space: <http://wp.stolaf.edu/asc/speaking-center/>