

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

A. Department Information:

Division: Humanities and Social Science  
Department: Speech and Performing Arts  
Course ID: THART 160x4  
Course Title: Theatre Crafts  
Units: 3  
Lecture: None  
Laboratory: 9 Hours  
Prerequisite: None

B. Catalog and Schedule Description:

Study of technical practices in the theatre, including identification and use of tools and hardware, the construction and painting of props and scenery, rigging, the recognition, maintenance, hanging, and focusing of lighting instruments, the design of sound systems and effects, the construction and preparation of costumes and makeup, the development of publicity for public performances, stage management, and the understanding and practice of safety in the theatre.

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: Four**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon completion of the course the student should be able to:

- A. Identify the different parts of a theatre;
  - B. Recognize and correctly use stage terminology;
  - C. Produce a line schedule;
  - D. Analyze safety issues specific to theatre facilities and workshops, and evaluate different theatre spaces for safety;
  - E. Distinguish the roles of each of the persons on production staffs and crews.
- Depending on the student's specific assignment, he/she will be able to
- F. Recognize the different designations of properties and know how to obtain, construct, and maintain props;
  - G. Use tools and hardware for the construction of theatrical scenery;
  - H. Rig and operate sound systems for theatrical productions;
  - I. Strip, hang, focus, operate, and maintain lighting equipment;
  - J. Shop for and maintain theatrical costumes and makeup;
  - K. Shop for fabric;
  - L. Construct and alter simple costumes using existing patterns;
  - M. Assume the responsibilities of stage management and produce a working prompt book;
  - N. Develop and implement a publicity plan/schedule;
  - O. Work as the house manager for a public performance.

Each time the student takes the class, the emphasis is on another area (reflected in content) of stage management.

**IV. COURSE CONTENT:**

- A. Stages and rigging
  - 1. Parts of a theatre
  - 2. Forms of theatres
  - 3. Stage terminology
  - 4. Stage rigging
  - 5. Stage curtains
  - 6. Line schedules
  - 7. Knots

- B. Safety
  - 1. Fire safety
  - 2. Safety devices
  - 3. Individual safety
- C. Production staff and crews
  - 1. Production staff
  - 2. Producer
  - 3. Director
  - 4. Production supervisor
  - 5. Stage manager
  - 6. Actor related crews
  - 7. Audience related crews
  - 8. Technical director
  - 9. Stage, prop, sound, and lighting crews
- D. Properties
  - 1. Props and their purposes
  - 2. Prop construction
  - 3. Production of visual effects
  - 4. Prop maintenance
- E. Tools
  - 1. Cutting tools
  - 2. Boring tools
  - 3. Driving and pulling tools
  - 4. Holding and turning tools
  - 5. Measuring and marking tools
- F. Lumber and by-products
  - 1. Classification
  - 2. Grades
  - 3. Sizing and measurements
  - 4. By-products
- G. Fasteners
  - 1. Nails and corner fasteners
  - 2. Screws, bolts, and additional fasteners
- H. Scenery construction
  - 1. Planning
  - 2. Flat construction
  - 3. Joints, running and covering joints
  - 4. Platforms, parallels, steps, and ramps
- I. Hardware
  - 1. Hinges
  - 2. Other scene hardware
- J. Paint
  - 1. Application
  - 2. Texture
- K. Sound
  - 1. System parts
  - 2. Control and reproduction of sound
  - 3. Uses of sound systems
- L. Lighting
  - 1. Lamps (bases, filaments, bulbs, order codes)
  - 2. Control (absorption, reflection, refraction, lens shapes)
  - 3. Instruments (beam characters, location, operation of follow spots)
  - 4. Dimming systems
  - 5. Color media

- M. Electricity and devices
  - 1. Measurement
  - 2. Wire, cables
  - 3. Switches, circuits
- N. Costumes
  - 1. Shopping
  - 2. Dressing
  - 3. Maintenance
  - 4. Reading patterns
  - 5. Alterations
- O. Management
  - 1. Responsibilities
  - 2. Prompt script
  - 3. Working in rehearsal
  - 4. Working during performance
- P. Publicity
  - 1. Audience development
  - 2. Image
  - 3. Scheduling
  - 4. Working with the media
  - 5. Writing the press release, public service announcement, etc.
  - 6. Interviewing
  - 7. Advertising
- Q. Forms
  - 1. Production schedule
  - 2. Budget/production costs
  - 3. Properties list, properties set-up
  - 4. Paint schedule
  - 5. Sound effect cue sheet
  - 6. Electrician's cue sheet
  - 7. Costume chart
  - 8. Box office report

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Demonstration
- C. Audio visual presentations
- D. Hands-on supervised practice
- E. Participation on technical production crews for SBVC theatrical productions

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

- A. Reading: After reading the chapter on props, answer the questions at the end of the chapter. Be prepared to discuss your responses in class.
- B. Analysis Project--Costuming: You have been assigned to costume Moliere's "Tartuff". You have a budget of \$500. In a 4-6 page paper, explain the choices you would make and your plan for creating the character's costume.
- C. Analysis Project--Props: You have been assigned to provide the props for the college's upcoming play, and your budget is \$750. In a 4-6 page paper, explain the choices you would make and discuss your plan for acquiring the necessary items.

**VII. EVALUATION(S):**

- A. Methods of evaluation:
  - 1. Objective and subjective examinations designed to test students' comprehension of course material. Sample test questions: List the production crew members and explain each one's responsibilities in a production.

2. Subjective evaluation of student performance. Students are evaluated on their ability to apply course concepts to theatrical productions presented by the college.
- B. Frequency of evaluation (for each time taken—only difference is content area)
  1. At least two examinations
  2. At least two demonstrations mastering a content area (e.g., costuming, makeup, lighting, etc.).

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

Schneider, Doris. The art and craft of stage management. Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 1997.  
Ionazzi, Daniel. The stagecraft handbook. Better Way Publishers, 1996

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:** None.