

## FOUNDATIONS of DESIGN (Introductory Design Course-undergraduate)

Vandy Scoates

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Using plays from selected theatrical periods, students explore theatre history and theory of theatrical design through the study of theatrical architecture and design. Techniques include hands-on creativity and design exercises combined with script analysis as tools to help discover the history, art and process of theatrical design.

### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Demonstrate an increased sensitivity to performing and visual artistic representations of the Human experience
- Comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the meaning of the work and can discern principles
- Display analytical Skills in regards to the qualities and historical context of the work
- Demonstrate oral communication skills through presentation
- Use Multi-media resources and skills to present work
- Express informed personal responses to Artistic creations
- Compile factual and inspirational research for her/his design
- Create sketches, renderings, models, drafting, and presentations of her/his designs

### TEXTS & MATERIALS:

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

- *The Art of Theatrical Design* by Kaoime E. Malloy
- *The Dutchman* by Amiri Baraka (PDF provided)
- *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson (PDF provided)

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Most of these materials can be found at your local art supply store or online.

- 11 x 14 or 9 x 12 Bristol Board
- Tracing Paper
- Architect Scale Ruler (Imperial)
- Scissors
- Pencil (HB or above)
- Eraser
- Cork Backed Metal Ruler
- Glue Stick
- Coloring Materials- Colored Pencils, Watercolor paint, Prisma-color pens, or other (Please clear with me)

#### RECOMMENDED MATERIALS:

- Exact-o knife and blades
- Tacky Glue
- Mixed Media Paper
- Geometry Set

Due to safety restrictions you will not be allowed to share materials. I will have some materials available in class that will be cleaned before and after every class period but these will be limited and will only be available for emergency situations where personal materials cannot be accessed. **You must bring your own materials to class. If you are missing materials needed for that day and cannot provide me with a documented reason why they are missing, you will have a reduction in class participation for that class period.** An example of emergency documentation could include an email saying shipment was delayed or a picture showing something broke and a replacement has not been available.

### GRADING:

#### Grading Breakdown:

Class Participation	10% of Final Grade
Discussion Posts (12 of 13)	12% of Final Grade
Mini Assignments (4 total)	10% of Final Grade
Script Analysis for <i>Piano Lesson</i>	10% of Final Grade
<i>Piano Lesson</i> Quiz	4% of Final Grade
Costume, Set and Light Projects (2 each, 6 Total)	39% of Final Grade
Final Project	15% of Final Grade

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### **PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late projects and assignments will not be tolerated. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by 3:30pm on the date due. Late projects will be deducted ½ of their point value for every class period they are late. After two class periods they will not be accepted without permission. The final drafting project is due on the final exam day and will not be accepted late unless you have an excused absence from the final exam that has been cleared with Vandy Scoates. Discussion posts will be due Monday evenings at 8:10pm (or 20:10 military time).

You may turn assignments in digitally via Blackboard, or email or give a hard copy to me personally in class or in my office. Some projects will be handed in as hard copy due to the nature of the assignment but you are always welcome to scan these items (if applicable) and turn them in digitally as well. Scans, drafting or uploaded images that are blurry, have poor contrast, are smaller than 5" x 8" (images), or smaller than 8"x 10" (drafting and renderings) will not be accepted and you will receive a 0 on the assignment.

Please refer to specific assignment requirements regarding scanned work. Specifically, look at the final scanning requirements. Failure to adhere to all assignment requirements will result in a reduced grade and possibly failure of the assignment.

Please back up your homework in at least 2 places and save regularly. "My computer crashed" will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

### **READINGS:**

You must read two plays for the class on which your designs and assignments will be based. These readings must be completed by the dates assigned as we will be having classroom discussion about these plays and it is important that you have an understanding of them previous to these classes. I will be giving a quiz (worth 4% of your final grade) on *Piano Lesson* the day of the discussion.

You will also have reading from Malloy's *The Art of Theatrical Design*. Suggested and required reading will be assigned from this book. This book will also be helpful for future classes if you decide to continue your education in theatrical design.

### **PRODUCTIONS:**

You are NOT required to see productions this semester but it is strongly encouraged. You may write up to 3 production responses for extra credit. Tickets for HPU productions are free but you should arrive early if you are getting tickets at the door or reserve your seats in advance. I will keep you updated on dates and times as the semester progresses. Be sure and check Blackboard regularly as I will post any updates on production schedules there.

When seeing a production, be on time, be courteous and be respectful while seeing the any production. Any disruptions or rude behavior during the show will result in deductions to your production response grade.

### **WRITTEN WORK:**

#### **Discussion Posts :(12% of Final Grade)**

You will have 13 Discussions Post to participate in throughout the semester, **of which you must do 12**. Each post will be worth 1% of your final grade. If you complete all 13 posts, you will be given 5% extra credit for the 13<sup>th</sup> post.

Each post will be due Monday evenings at 8:10pm (or 20:10 military time).

Each discussion post must include the following for full credit:

- 300 word minimum
- Must be submitted under the correct discussion post ( or response to post if applicable) in a new thread
- Your name and the discussion number in the subject line of the thread(Ex: Vandy Scoates 4)
- Submitted by 8:10pm on the Monday due date

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If we are forced to take the class completely online, part of your required weekly post will also be responding to 2 fellow classmates posts. This will make your discussion post worth .5% and each response worth .25%. Responses will be a 100 word minimum and include all the rest of the criteria. If we are not online and you choose to respond to discussion posts, each will count as .25% extra credit.

In the event any part of the class moved online, your attendance will be assessed using discussion posts completion and Blackboard access. In this scenario a late discussion post will be considered a tardy (as well as have a reduced grade for that post). A missed Discussion Post and/or not accessing Blackboard within 2 days of the class period will result in an absence.

### **Script Analysis- (10% of Final Grade)**

You will write a script analysis paper for *The Piano Lesson*

The analysis is worth 10% of your final grade. The analysis will be done in outline format and be a minimum of 2 pages double-spaced. **You will turn in your script analysis digitally** via email or Blackboard. The papers will include the given circumstance for the play that we will discuss in class. You will be given a template in class and on Blackboard in which to follow for the script analysis. **You must download and use this Microsoft Word template for the assignment.**

Supplemental information about script analysis will be provided and discussed in class.

### **MINI ASSIGNMENTS:**

You will have small assignments throughout the semester including an Elements of Design project, Given circumstances outline, research homework and research assignment.

### **Elements (2% of Final Grade)**

You will be creating a poster for the theatre department hallway that illustrates 2 or more elements of design, 1 or more principle of design and speaks to one of the following subjects:

- Collaboration
- Performing Arts Life Skills
- Social Justice
- Unity in times of divisiveness

Focus should be put on 2 or more of the following elements of design

- Color
- Line
- Texture
- Shape/Form
- Space/Scale

Posters should also use 1 or more principles of Design

- Balance
- Proportion
- Emphasis
- Rhythm
- Unity

Other parameters include:

- The poster will not include offensive language or graphic imagery
  - That being said, if you have an image you feel strongly about that can be considered graphic, please show me prior to completing the assignment for permission to use.
- The poster can be done digitally or by hand
- It can be done on any size paper between 8.5" x 11" (Letter) to 14" x 17" (Tabloid)
- Your posters will be displayed in the 3rd floor HFAC hallway for the remainder of the semester.

### **Research Homework (1% of Final Grade)**

You will bring to class, 4 images printed on 8.5 x 11 paper. These will be of Factual, Conceptual and Inspirational research for *The Dutchman*. You must bring these printed copies to class on 9.15 to receive credit.

### **Given circumstances (4% of Final Grade)**

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You will be given a handout outlining all the given circumstances for a particular play. You will apply this outline to *The Dutchman* and speak to the **bold** sections on the “Dutchman Given Circumstances” word doc on Blackboard. You do not have to use this word doc provided for this assignment but it is highly recommended.

### **Research Assignment (3% of Final Grade)**

You will create a PowerPoint presentation of 21 images of research. These will be of Costumes, Sets and Lights for *The Dutchman*. You will also include a slide with citing (in MLA format) an article. The article can be about the playwright, the play, the time period the play was written, the time period the play is set in, or the location the play takes place. You must also include a sentence about why you chose this particular written research.

Your PowerPoint presentation will be recorded with your own narration of why you chose the images and how they relate to the play and your “design”. This should not exceed 8 min. More information will be given about the project and how to record your presentation.

### **PROJECTS AND QUIZ:**

#### **Piano lesson Quiz (4% of Final Grade)**

You will have one quiz on *The Piano Lesson* by August Wilson. **This quiz will be done IN CLASS and ON BLACKBOARD so you will need to bring your laptop or tablet** in order to take the quiz online while in the classroom. If any student cannot be physically in the classroom with us that day, the quiz will be done while streaming on Webex so we can all participate the discussion after the quiz is finished. This will be a short quiz to ensure that you have read the play, prior to the session.

In the event that any part of the class goes online, the quiz will be on blackboard and you will utilize Honorlock

#### **Costume Project 1 (6% of Final Grade)**

Using a croqui (various choices on Blackboard) collage a costume of fashion piece, digitally or by hand.

- You may base this on any character you choose
- You may do a male or female character
- You may use images printed from the internet, catalogs, newspapers, fabric scraps or magazines.
- You may also use various medium to draw details or additions onto the collages.
- You will need a scissors and an adhesive (glue stick or scotch tape should work)
- Cut out images and textures and adhere to croquis in the silhouette of the clothing you are costuming them with

#### **Costume Project 2 (7% of Final Grade)**

Create a costume based on an object, animal or painting for *The Dutchman*.

- Pick one character from *The Dutchman*
- Pick a 3D object, animal or painting that you think speaks to the character
- Using a croqui or using your own drawn figure, render a Costume based on the object.
- The rendering should be on 8.5” x 11” paper (minimum) and in color

#### **Set Project 1 (6% of Final Grade)**

Using the Front Elevation provided, create a ground plan on the provided stage printout

- Scale is important but, because we will not know the actual sizes, try to guess what would be most appropriate for the space
- This should be clean, neat and use proper drafting techniques

#### **Set Project 2 (7% of Final Grade)**

Create a set design for *The Dutchman* and draft a rough ground plan

- Re-draft the theater space and Draft your set for *The Dutchman*, the a legal size piece of paper (GPs of Theatre and paper provided) in ¼” Scale

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- You will base the design and drafting off your research
- The handout of furniture footprint sizes will also be useful.
- Lay out the paper's borders with construction lines.
- Lay out the paper's center line, labeled lightly for reference.
- Lay everything out in construction lines. Darken visible lines only when everything is placed, include legs and architecture
- Include the center line and plaster line in correct line type
- Indicate a space where audience seating will be located
- You may want to do a few versions on Tracing Paper first
- Label appropriately

### **Light Project 1 (6% of Final Grade)**

Create a story board representing different directions of light on a figure (provided)

- Shadows are important indicators of direction, both the shadowed side of the object itself and the east shadow.
- If the shadow falls on the floor behind a person, the light automatically appears as though it's coming from in front of the person.
- Using this principle, depict 3 directions (Front, either side and Back or Top) for the only source of light on figure.
- Add a cast shadow that falls behind at an angle .
- You will have a total of 3 drawings.

### **Light Project 2 (7% of Final Grade)**

Create an Area Breakdown using your set ground plan for *The Dutchman* and mark the Key and fill directions and colors that would most likely be used for your production

- You will want to make a photocopy of your ground plan or scan it into the computer
- Each acting area should be between 6'-0" square and 8'-0" square
- You will need to stay in the scale of your set design ground plan
- You should use tracing paper to draft out your options
- You will need a scale rule for this or a way to scale on a scanned version
- You can denote key and fill light directions with an arrow and a title and color (either color name or gel code)

### **Final Design (15% of Final Grade)**

You will design costumes, sets and lights for a production of *The Piano Lesson*. Specific details about project components can be found on blackboard. Submission requirements include:

- A Power Point presentation (including a selection of all project materials) will be submitted on Blackboard on the final exam day at the end of the exam period (12.7 at 6:30pm)
- Along with the Power Point Presentation you will also submit images or documents to complete all portions of the assignments.
- Your PowerPoint presentation will be recorded with your own narration of why you chose the images and how they relate to the play and your "design". Your PowerPoint presentation 15 min.
- Scans, drafting or uploaded images that are blurry, or have poor contrast (too light or too dark) will not be accepted and you will receive a 0 on the assignment.
- Images must be 5" x 8" or larger if turned in as a PDF or word doc. You should have no more than 2 images per PowerPoint slide.
- Drafting and Renderings must be 8"x 10" or larger and should be submitted as PDFs or IMG files. You should have no more than 1 drafting example or rendering per Powerpoint slide.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION: (10% of final grade):**

This class is based on discussions and learning from your classmates. You must actively participate in discussions and answer questions in order to succeed. If you are not in class you cannot participate so excessive absences will also contribute to your participation grade.

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I consider good class participation to be:

- Active listening
- Asking and answering questions
- Participating in class discussions
- Making helpful comments on your classmates' and your own work
- Keeping up with assignments and readings in order to be informed for discussions

If I find that the class is not keeping up with the readings pop quizzes will be given during each class period and they will go into your class participation grade.

### EXTRA CREDIT:

There may be various extra credit opportunities that may arise during the semester and you will be told about them in class as they come up. There will also be several extra credit options on the final project

### Production Response: (3% Extra Credit)

You are NOT required to see productions this semester but it is strongly encouraged. You may write **up to 3 production responses** for extra credit (worth 3% each).

When seeing a production, be on time, be courteous and be respectful while seeing the any production. Any disruptions or rude behavior during the show will result in deductions to your production response grade. Seeing a production and writing a design response will count for 5% extra credit. You may do up to two (2) extra credit reviews.

I would suggest writing your response (or at least take notes) shortly after seeing the show while it is still fresh in your mind. I am looking for a clear and concise 1-3 page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font.

Please use the following guidelines when completing your production responses.

- A detailed description of the set, costume and lighting design using terms we learned in class.
- A design rationale using terms we learned in class-  
Why do you think it was designed this way?
- Your opinion: Did the design help or hinder the piece and why?
- What moment or visual aspect of the design affected you the greatest and why?

### GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:

97%-100%+ = A+	94%-96.9%----A	90%-93.9%----A-
87%-89.9%----B+	84%-86.9%----B	80%-83.9%----B-
77%-79.9%----C+	74%-76.9%----C	70%-73.9%----C-
67%-69.9%----D+	64%-66.9%----D	60%-63.9%----D-

### UNIVERSITY AND CLASSROOM POLICIES:

#### ATTENDANCE AND TARDINESS:

##### Instructor Attendance Policies

Attendance is very important in this class. The college expects the student to regularly attend classes. There is a great deal of information to cover in the short time. If you are not in class for discussions and lectures you will fall behind.

You are allowed four (4) unexcused absences for the semester. An excused absence will only be accepted with a signed note or direct email from the doctor, student services, your coach (for athletic events), or your advisor (for other school-sanctioned events).

In the event any part of the class moved online, your attendance will be assed using discussion posts completion and Blackboard access. In this scenario a late discussion post will be considered a tardy (as well as have a reduced grade for

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that post). A missed Discussion Post and/or not accessing Blackboard within 2 days of the class period will result in an absence.

**After four (4) unexcused absences your class participation grade be reduced by 3% with each subsequent unexcused absence. You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than ten (10) minutes late to class.**

### **Tardiness:**

Tardiness will not be tolerated. I promise to be on time for our classes and I expect you to do the same. I will consider you tardy if you come into class after the classroom clock has struck **3:30p**.

In the event any part of the class moved online, your attendance will be assessed using discussion posts completion and Blackboard access. In this scenario a late discussion post will be considered a tardy (as well as have a reduced grade for that post).

Every two (2) tardies will be considered an unexcused absence. **After four (4) unexcused absences your grade will go down one (1) letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. You will be considered absent for the day if you are more than ten (10) minutes late to class.**

### **MATERIALS IN CLASS:**

After the first week of class you should expect to bring in your required materials and textbook to class everyday. If you do not need materials I will try to let you know the class before. I would suggest designating a bag or portable box that you can easily carry for materials.

Due to safety restrictions you will not be allowed to share materials. I will have some materials available in class that will be cleaned before and after every class period but these will be limited and will only be available for emergency situations where personal materials cannot be accessed. **You must bring your own materials to class. If you are missing materials needed for that day and cannot provide me with a documented reason why they are missing, you will have a reduction in class participation for that class period.** An example of emergency documentation could include an email saying shipment was delayed or a picture showing something broke and a replacement has not been available.

### **TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:**

#### **Instructor Technology and submission Policies:**

All written work should be typed and can be submitted to me digitally on Blackboard as a word or PDF document. Presentations should be done in a slideshow format that will be submitted digitally. There will be work that we will do in class that will have to be submitted as hard copy but, whenever possible, please submit via Blackboard. If you are having trouble submitting on Blackboard or if the assignment is not available on Blackboard you may email assignments. Emails must be sent in time to meet all deadlines or the work will be considered late. **DO NOT** share assignments with me on clouds like Google Docs or OneDrive unless specifically requested or assignments are too large to attach via Blackboard or email.

All the supplemental information and handouts for this class will be given to you in digital form if applicable. This is to save on paper and do our part to help the environment as well as reduce the touching and sharing of materials. If you need any of these as a hard copy please let me know and I will provide them for you. There are some assignments that must be done on paper and those will be handed out in class but a digital copy will be provided so you can print any replacements at home.

Please back up your homework in at least 2 places and save regularly. "My computer crashed" will not be an excuse for any assignment being turned in late.

### **MATERIAL CONTENT:**

We will be subject to readings or performances this semester that may include offensive language, adult themes, and political/religious views that may not be in line with your personal beliefs. Materials used in this course are used for

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the purpose of research and learning, were not chosen to offend or be “preachy” and do not necessarily reflect the views of myself or High Point University. I ask that you keep an open mind when exploring these works of literature.

**Please note the calendar and due dates are subject to change.**