

## **FUNDEMENTAL OF LIGHTING DESIGN (Introductory Design Course-undergraduate)**

Vandy Scoates

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Studies the aesthetics, theory and execution of stage lighting as an art form. Includes the mechanics of stage lighting, the process of lighting a production, drafting a plot, and executing the design. Lab work is required.

### **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- Comprehend, demonstrate, or articulate the value inherent in an artistic, musical, or dramatic creation
- Read, analyze, discuss, and write about the basic principles of lighting design
- Read, analyze, discuss, and write about script analysis, history, drafting, research, and drawing & rendering.
- Have a basic understanding of theatrical electrics and drafting.
- Present personal interpretations of lighting design for a specific production.

### **TEXTS & MATERIALS:**

#### **Required Texts:**

- *Stage Lighting: The Technicians Guide 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* by Skip Mort  
ISBN-13: 978-1474212700
- *The Visit* by Friedrich Dürrenmatt translated by Joel Agee  
ISBN-13: 978-0802144263

#### **Recommended Texts:**

- *Working Together in Theatre: Collaboration and Leadership* by Robert Cohen

**Required Materials:** Most of these materials can be found at your local art and office supply stores:

- Tracing Paper
- Lighting Template- 1/4" Scale
- Protractor
- .7mm Mechanical Pencil
- Good Eraser
- Colored Pencils
- Compass
- Roscoe swatch book  
(provided)
- Architectural Scale Rule (Imperial/Architectural not Metric/Engineering)

### **LAB ASSIGNMENT: (20% of final grade)**

Each student will be required to help during the hang/focus of the shows. You are also required to work the two (2) Saturday focus calls (minimum 4 hours each) and an additional 10 hours for a total of at least 18 hours for the semester. Additional 10 hours can be made at strike (if not a theatre major) or can be made up in 1-3 hour blocks during the semester. Regular lab times that are available will be posted during the second week of classes. You will sign in and out of timesheet housed in a 3 ring binder outside my office. If it's not in the book, you didn't do it. Students should be prompt and dressed for dirty work. Lockers are available.

If you cannot attend the focus calls, you may have the option to be on a running crew for one of the school's shows. In this case you would have to be available for the entire technical rehearsals and show run. On running crew, absences cannot be tolerated and if any occur you will fail the lab assignment and get a 10% reduction to your final grade.

You will be given 2% extra credit for every one (1) hour you work above the 18 hours.

**GRADE BREAKDOWN FOR LAB HOURS:**

- Work 18 hours: A/100%
- Work 14 hours: B/80%
- Work 10 hours: C/70%
- Work 6 hours: D/60%
- Work less than 6 hours: F/0%

**PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late projects and assignments will not be tolerated. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by 11am the date due. Late projects will be graded at 1/2 of their point value for every class period they are late. After two class periods they will not be accepted without permission. The final project is due on the final exam day and will be not be accepted late.

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 assignments but you are always welcome to scan these assignments in and turn them in digitally as well.

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.

**ASSIGNMENT GRADE BREAKDOWN**

Lab Hours	20% of Final Grade
<i>The Visit</i> Quiz	5% of Final Grade
Production reviews (2)	10% of Final Grade
Class Participation	10% of Final Grade
<i>The Visit</i> Script Analysis	5% of Final Grade
<i>The Visit</i> Scene Breakdown	5% of Final Grade
Area Breakdown	5% of Final Grade
Morgue (Midterm)	10% of Final Grade
Observation Journals	10% of Final Grade
Final Project	20% of Final Grade

**READINGS:**

You must read one play for the class on which your class and homework assignments will be based. This reading and those from the textbook must be completed by the dates assigned as we will be having classroom discussion about the play and lighting aspects and it is important that you have an understanding previous to these classes. I will be giving a quiz on the play on the first day of the discussion. Please read *The Visit* by the Thur. of Week 3.

You will also have passages to read from several handouts that will help supplement information that cannot be covered in class due to time restraints. These handouts will be available digitally to conserve paper, if you would like hard copies please let me know and I will provide these.

One assignments will include listening to a RADIOLAB PODCAST: “Colors”. This can be accessed for free through iTunes, Amazon or from the website: <http://www.radiolab.org/story/211119-colors/>

**WRITTEN WORK:**

**Design Reviews/ Production attendance-**

Respond to two (2) productions You may write your production response on a show in which you are acting or on the crew if necessary. Do not wait until the last day to see the show and get your tickets early. I am looking for a clear and concise 2-3 page, double spaced paper in Garamond 12 pt. font that touches on the following elements:

- A detailed description of the lighting design using terms we learned in class.
- A design rationale: 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?

### **Script Analysis-**

You will write a script analysis paper for the play we will study this semester: *The Visit*. 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.

You will be expected to turn in your script analysis with your final project with any corrections needed. Supplemental information about script analysis will be provided and discussed in class.

### **Scene Breakdown-**

The Scene Breakdown will be a spreadsheet that shows the locations, times, days, mood and special requirements that you find in the play through script analysis. Your original scene breakdown is due March 16th and will be turned in again with your final project along with any changes/improvements. You need to include act/scenes (if listed) and page numbers. You may breakdown you script by "french scenes" if no scenes designated in script.

### **Observation Journal Entries-**

You are required to provide 4 observation journals throughout the semester. These journal entries will have written and drawn components. You will write a paragraph description of your observation of the way light effects a location/situation as well as a rough sketch of it representing light direction. You may include a photo of the location situation with your journal and/or morgue but this is not required. You may choose from the following locations/situations:

- Interior Day
- Interior with single lamp
- Exterior Day
- Exterior Night
- Exterior Lamp
- Interior Night
- Interior with Candle or Fireplace
- Exterior Dusk or Dawn
- Exterior Fire pit or Water reflection
- Interior with multiple light sources

### **Area Breakdown: (5% of Final Grade)**

After being supplied with a ground plan you will breakdown the stage area into sections for lighting. This assignment will be used to help you create your Magic Sheet for the final assignment. Supplemental information about area breakdown and magic sheets will be provided and discussed in class.

### **EXTRA CREDIT:**

Seeing an additional production writing a design review will count for 2% extra credit. You are allowed to do up to 2 extra credit production reviews.

You may also receive extra credit for doing lab hours above and beyond the required 18 if available. If/when hours are offered announcements will be given in advance as to dates available. If you are a theatre major your department hours do not count as extra credit.

**MID-TERM PROJECT:** (15% of Final Grade)

**Lighting Morgue-**

The morgue is a compilation of photos, prints and illustrations of light observations which reflect a diverse range of situations and examples that will be (partially) presented in front of the class. You will be required to have a total of **50 images** that should be submitted digitally (in a slideshow format) or as a hardcopy (with no more than 2 images to a page). Along with the image please provide the time, location and mood you *think* the lighting in the image is representing. At least **40** of these images must be in color. For images ideas please refer to the Observation Journal location/situations. You must also provide an informal work cited page with your morgue. This can simply be a list of books and websites.

For the presentation you will present your favorite five (5) images stating the time, location and mood as well as why you chose the picture. The five (5) images do not have to relate to the play or your final design.

**FINAL PROJECT- Lighting Design Packet for *The Visit*:** (20% of Final Grade)

**Final Project Grade Breakdown:**

- Visual Research- 15% of Project grade
- Magic Sheet- 10% of Project grade
- Cue Sheet- 10% of Project grade
- Channel Hookup- 5% of Project grade
- Concept Statement- 5% of Project grade
- Script Analysis & Scene Breakdown-5% of Project grade
- Lighting Worksheets 5% of Project Grade
- Light Plot/Section-30% of Project grade
- Presentation- 15% of Project Grade

**Final Project Component Description:**

Visual Research-

Photo research for every scene of the play showing your idea for the lighting in that particular scene. Images from your morgue can be used for this assignment as long as they work with your concept. You must provide an informal work cited page with your research. This can simply be a list of books and websites.

Magic Sheet-

A magic sheet combines your work from the area breakdown and journal assignments. It is a sheet that shows all the light directions/colors on your plot that correspond to the channel numbers. Supplemental information about the magic sheet will be provided and discussed in class.

Cue Sheet-

A spreadsheet that lists all the cues that you can foresee happening through the show including transitions and top of show. Supplemental information about the cue sheet will be provided and discussed in class.

Channel Hookup/Instrument Schedule-

A spreadsheet that lists the unit number, channel number, dimmer number, gel number and any gobos or special effects of every instrument in your plot. Supplemental information about the Channel Hookup will be provided and discussed in class.

Concept Statement-

The concept statement will describe your design interpretation of *The Visit*. I would like a clear vision for your design. This concept statement will be at least 1 paragraph but no longer than a page.

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Your concept should be based in script analysis and research. Supplemental information about concepts will be provided and discussed in class.

### Lighting Worksheets

You will also show your lighting angle worksheet for 2 lighting position of your choice on the section and front view drawings that I will provide. These should be on tracing paper and will be separated by color. We will discuss worksheets in class throughout the semester.

### Light Plot-

You will receive a ground plan in 1/4" scale and you will use your instrument template to place your light plot on the ground plan. All instruments should be labeled with the channel number and gel number. The plot needs to have a legend, key, and notes. Supplemental information about the light plot will be provided and discussed in class. You will only be given one printed groundplan/section so please practice on tracing paper before setting in your final plot. The plot must be clear, neat, and easy to understand. You must exhibit tidy drafting skills in order to succeed at hand drafted light plots

### Presentation-

You will have 10 min to present your final design to the class. The presentation should be well organized and speak to all elements of the final design but focus on research, concept, and your plot.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION (20% 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.

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

### **GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:**

90%-100%---A    80%-89.9%----B    72%-79.9%----C    62%-69.9%----D    59.9%-0%--- F

# FUNDEMENTAL OF LIGHTING DESIGN (Introductory Design Course-undergraduate)

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## CALENDAR:

### WEEK 1:

Intro to course and syllabus discussion

### WEEK 2:

History of Light/ Expressionism & Lighting Objectives

Reading: *Pilbrow handout*

*Mort 2.17-Using the Lighting Palette (pg. 259-273)*

Properties of Light and The Design Process

Reading: *Mort 2.20- The Design Process (pg 301-309)*

### WEEK 3:

Visual Research **MEET IN LIBRARY**

Play Discussion, scene breakdowns and script analysis **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Assignment Due: ***The Visit Quiz***

Reading: *The Vist* by Fredrick Durremont

### WEEK 4:

The Area Breakdown & The Design Team **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Reading: *Mort 2.16- the lighting Palette (pg 245-246)*

*Mort 2.18- Lighting the Show (pg.275-278)*

Stages, Scenery, and Instruments

Assignment Due: **Journal#1**

Reading: *Mort 1.2- Lanterns (pg. 9-31)*

### WEEK 5:

Instruments, Consoles, Hang **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Reading: *Mort 1.3- Working with Lanterns (pg. 33-49)*

*Mort 1.4 -Extras! Power Supply (pg 69-75)*

NO CLASS-ACTF

### WEEK 6:

Behavior of Lights and focusing

Assignment Due: **Area Breakdown**

Reading: *Mort 2.15- Focusing a wash of light (pg 241-243)*

Lighting Angles and Positions **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Assignment Due: **Script Analysis**

Reading: *Mort 2.14-Lighting the performance space (pg. 213-217)*

### WEEK 7:

Lighting Angles & "Lighting from Black and White"

Assignment Due: **2 Black & White Photographs**

Reading: *Mort 2.15- Other angles of Lighting (pg. 231-240)*

MIDTERM **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Assignment Due: **Morgue and Presentations**

### WEEK 8:

"Developing Concepts"

Reading: *Concept Statement Handout*

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NO CLASS- SETC

Assignment Due: **Journal 2 Due**

**WEEK 9: SPRING BREAK**

**WEEK 10:**

Optical Effects & “Color Emotions”

Assignment Due: **Design Review #1** Reading: *Mort pg 250-251-A touch of Colour*

Listen to: *Radiolab Podcast: “Colors”*

Worksheets & Drafting **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Assignment Due: **Scene Breakdown Due**

Reading: *Mort 2.19-Planning the design (pg.289-299)*

**WEEK 11:**

Worksheets & Drafting **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Reading: *Mort 2.20- Extras! Designing a Larger show (pg. 310-317)*

Effects, Color & “Color Relativity” **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Assignment Due: **Drafting Exercise**

Reading: *Mort 1.8- Color (pg. 144-152)*

**WEEK 12:**

Drafting & Paperwork **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

Reading: *Mort 2.16- Extras! Adding colour pg 252-258)*

Other effects

Assignment Due: **Journal#3**

Reading: *Mort 1.9-gobos (pg.157-161)*

*Mort 1.13 other effects (pg.201-205)*

**WEEK 13:**

Rep Plots and Newer Instruments

Reading: *Mort 1.6- DMX Fixtures (pg. 93-115)*

Other Lighting Opportunities

Reading: *Mort 2.16- The Lighting Palette (pg. 247-249)*

**WEEK 14:**

IN CLASS WORK DAY **MEET IN LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

IN CLASS WORK DAY **MEET IN ROOM 19**

**WEEK 15:**

NO CLASS- Student Matinee

IN CLASS WORK DAY **MEET IN ROOM 19**

Assignments due: **Journal #4**

**WEEK 16:**

LAST DAY OF REGULAR CLASS/ in class work day **MEET IN THEATRE LOBBY**

Assignments due: **Design Review #2 Due**

**Last Day for Extra Credit**

**FINAL EXAM: MEET IN THEATRE LOBBY**

Final Design and presentation Due. Please put up plots/presentations on lobby walls