

## **THTR 290: Sustainability in Theatre**

FALL 2015

Classroom #: KC 112  
Professor Vandy Scoates  
Email: scoatesv@central.edu

Meets: T & TH 12:30pm-1:45pm  
Office #: Kruidenier Center 107  
Office Hours: M & W 11a-1p, Thurs.  
10a-11a or by Appointment\*

4 credits  
Office Phone #: 641-628-5244

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course exams theatrical production, concentrating on environmentally sustainable options for the design and execution of theatrical events. We will examine the role of the designer, director, actor and administrative staff in creating an environmentally sustainable production, emphasizing basic strategies for visual problem solving, and techniques for preparing comprehensive and ecologically friendly designs for theatrical environments. This course teaches methods of approaching, developing, communicating, collaborating, researching and completing sustainable theatrical pieces. This will be achieved through detailed study of global connectedness, creative problem solving, research, product knowledge, and innovative idea creation.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVE:**

By course completion students should have a clear understanding of the following; roles of the production team, sustainable arts practices in theatres around the world, toxic materials used in production and how to handle them, ways of making theatre design more sustainable, and developing new and creative ways of implementing all that is learned into production.

### **TEXTS & MATERIALS:**

#### **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- *Greening up our Houses: A Guide to a More Ecologically Sound Theatre* by Larry K. Fried (Available at the bookstore) ISBN: 978-0896761322
- *The Artist's Complete Health and Safety Guide* by Monona Rossol (Available at the bookstore and online) ISBN: 978-1581152043

### **OFF- CAMPUS:**

During the semester there will be several times when we leave the classroom to learn more about sustainable practices in our community. On occasion these field trips and service learning project will require more time than is allotted in a standard class. The following trips are for your understanding of sustainable practices in the arts and in our global community. If you cannot attend any fieldtrip, you must have a signed excuse from a faculty member or doctor. We will schedule all events by the end of the first week of class so any conflicts can be addressed in advance.

If field trips happen over a meal time, box lunches will be arranged.

#### **Midwest Sanitation Recycling Center:**

We will be visiting a local recycling center in order to gather research for our final project and more information about local recycling. Travel arrangements will be provided by Central College.

#### **Field Station Days**

We may be visiting Central College's Field Station in order for you to gather research for our final project and to give you time to reflect on ecology in a natural environment. Travel arrangements will be provided by Central College.

#### ***Nature* by Tiger Arts at Grinell College**

We will be traveling to Grinell College on Saturday Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> to see a "walking theatre" production of *Nature*. This will be an outdoor production so please dress appropriately for the weather and for walking outdoors. We will be meeting in the parking lot outside of Kruidenier on **SATURDAY SEPT. 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm!** This is a mandatory performance and so transportation will be provided to and from the show. We should arrive back at Central College between 5:00pm-5:30pm.

#### **Additional Field Trips:**

During the semester there may be a production, art exhibit or architectural tour that we may incorporate into the class as a field trip. Since we have no way of knowing far in advance what events might be offered locally, we will be choosing these at the beginning of the semester. Once a sustainable event is chosen you will be notified as soon as possible and travel arrangements will be provided by Central College. Any additional field trips will be offered as 5% extra credit.

## **PROJECTS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

Late projects and assignments will not be tolerated. Assignments are considered late if they are not received by 11am on the date due. Late projects are reduced by half (1/2) of their original point value with every class period they are late. After two class periods they will not be accepted. The final project and paper are due on the final exam day and will not be accepted late.

Please turn in all assignments in digitally via Blackboard or email (scoatesv@central.edu). I ask that you turn in ALL WRITTEN WORK digitally to save paper unless the assignment calls for hand written work. In addition, all digital written work must be double-spaced and in Garamond font.

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 will have required reading from Fried's *Greening up our Houses* and Rossol's *The Artist's Complete Health and Safety Guide*. Suggested and required reading will be assigned from both books. These books will also be helpful for future classes if you decide to continue your study in environmentally sustainable arts. There will also be regular handouts posted on Blackboard that will be required reading.

## **PRODUCTIONS:**

You are required to see **two** designed productions this semester and write a response. Please keep your ticket stub or program and turn it in with your written work as a record of your attendance.

You will also be required to attend the Theatre for Public Policy events during the semester. The Theatre for Public Policy (TPP) show and talk done on campus on Nov. 12-13<sup>th</sup> 2015. The TPP talk will be in Dowstra Auditorium Thurs, Nov 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am and the show will be that evening at 7:30pm. If you cannot attend any of the events do to class or activity conflicts you must let me know within the first two weeks of the semester. If you have a last minute emergency that prevents your attendance you must let me know ASAP in order to receive an excuse. Both these events will be considered part of your class participation grade and we will be discussing them in class.

One production may be offered as a classroom fieldtrip. If this is the case, you will be notified as soon as possible and travel arrangements will be provided by the school. If you cannot attend any fieldtrip, you must have a signed excuse from a faculty member or doctor. We will schedule all events by the end of the first week of class so any conflicts can be addressed in advance.

Your second production response can be done on TTP, a field trip performance or on the second show at Central.

## **TESTS AND QUIZES:**

There will be two Blackboard Tests during the semester. The first will be a short quiz on the recycling regulations and policies of Central College and the City of Pella. (Opens 9/22 at 9am, closes 9/24 at 11:59pm.)

The second test will cover toxic materials used in production and safety procedures that should be adhered to in relation to these materials. (opens 11/10 at 9am, closes 11/12 at 11:59pm.)

## **UPCYCLE PROJECTS:**

You will have two (2) "Upcycle Projects" mid semester. Though these will not be officially "graded" it will count toward your as 5% of your class participation grade.

## **WRITTEN WORK:**

When completing written assignments please take advantage of the help you can receive at the Writing Center in the Geisler Library. This resource is not just for people who are "bad at writing". Everyone can improve their writing skills, as they will help you in any career you choose. Take advantage of this amazing resource and watch your grades improve. You can book an appointment on the website: <https://departments.central.edu/tutoring-writing-center/>

## **Blog:**

You will be required to post your Sustainable Theater Presentations and other useful information for the class on course blogs. You should also post any article, work cited or other information you find during your research for any projects this semester. This will give others in the class access to information that may not work for your particular project but could benefit them. Though you will not be graded on the content of the blogs, if you do not post you will lose 5% of your class participation grade. You must post at least once to the blog before Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Journals:**

After we cover each section in class you will be given a journal question to respond to. Each journal will be one to two (1-2) pages in length double-spaced and must be posted as a Blackboard Journal Entry. There will be five (5) journals total and each will open on the Thursday before the due date at 2pm and will close at 11:59pm on the due date. LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In these journals I am expecting a clear and concise statement using proper grammar and correct spelling. I also expect these to be original statements that express your opinions, thought and creative ideas. You are not allowed to cite any other written work, and as in all your assignments **plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Though you are not citing any other work, your reading and information you learned in class should inform your journal entries.

## **Production Responses-**

Review two (2) shows produced this semester. One show must be Central College's production of *School for Husbands* (Oct. 7-10 at 7:30pm, Kruidiner Theatre). Any other performance seen as part of the class or Central College's second production *Lion in Winter* (Nov. 18-22 at 7:30pm, Kruidiner Theatre) may be used for you second Production Response. Response 2 is due at the end of the semester, but can be turned in at any time throughout the class. 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 2-4 page paper, double spaced in 12pt. Garamond font.

## **Problem Paper-**

You will be working on a paper throughout the semester turning in different components as the semester progresses. Your first task will be to pick one sustainable problem that you found in the college's first production *School for Husbands*. You may pick from the general problems below and then get into the specific of that problem. Next, you will brainstorm three questions to answer in your paper. We will be talking about some questions in class and you may use those or, come up with your own. We'll then work through a process for collecting and evaluating sources, organizing your information, drafting, and revising.

You will be expected to identify, explain and research the problems and their affect locally and globally. You will need to address all aspects of sustainability (environmental, social and economic) in your paper. The components for you paper will be due on the following days

- Draft of focus and approval: Oct. 20th
- Guiding questions: Oct. 29th
- Source List: Nov. 11th
- Draft: Nov 24<sup>th</sup> (You may turn in drafts anytime after Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and as many times as you would like)
- Final: Wed. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at 1pm

## **PROJECTS:**

### **Sustainable Theatre Research-**

Many theaters and theatre companies around the world have started adapting sustainable means of production. You will present a report on one of these theaters to the class. Each student will choose from a list of theaters and email me their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice of theater in which to research by 7pm, Wed. Sept. 2nd. Theater choice will be given on a first come, first serve basis and I will do my best to give everyone their first choice.

Students will be required to write a brief 1-2 page outline detailing that theater's sustainable practices. The outline will be presented in class along with a brief statement of your opinion about the theater's practices and what was the most "valuable" thing you took away from the research. This presentation will be between 8-12 minutes and the outline will be turned in at the time of your presentation. Photos or other visual aids are required to supplement your outline. You must also include an informal work cited page as part of your presentation. Your presentation will be posted on Blackboard so that the entire class may benefit from the information.

### **Final Project-**

Using locally sourced materials, you will, as a class or in groups, re-design a production using sustainable methods and materials. You will use the first show of the season (*School for Husbands*) to re-design using only sustainable materials and production techniques. By using a production already designed, the hope is that the creative and technical pressures are eased in order to focus only on how and what the production consists of but, you may re-design the production altogether, or use the original design to re-design the production methods and materials. The class will re-structure and re-design all elements of the production process (marketing/public impressions, and management and facilities) whether as individuals handling each element or as a group working together. The end result will be a full (though unrealized) production including sources, strategies, examples, models, research and carbon/toxin impact assessment. The "production" will be presented in a digital format and will be posted on a website. You May re-design the production altogether, or use the original design to re-design the production methods and materials.

Research will include:

- Sustainable materials (or methods)
- Places to obtain said materials
- The environmental impact of using sustainable materials (vs. the previous method). This should include the CO2 emission calculation and comparison.
- The economic impact of using sustainable materials (vs. the previous method). This should include percentage change.
- Social impact of using sustainable materials (vs. the previous method)
- Brief description on how materials should be used or handled
- Ideas for new methods for pre-production, production and post-production.
- Informal work cited page for each component.
- Photo or other visual aids are required to supplement the presentation.

The class may work on all six (6) components (set, lights, costumes/make-up, marketing/public impressions, management and facilities) of the production or you may decide on 1 component for each individual to work on. The final group presentation must range between 50-60 min with each component presenting for 7-10 min. You may organize the presentation in anyway your group chooses. It must include all (6) components (set, lights, costumes/make-up, marketing/public impressions, management and facilities) and an informal work cited page. Photo or other visual aids are required to supplement the presentation.

For the final project discussion each member of the class will be expected to give a brief (one to two minute) description of their “favorite” contribution to the project, be it their own or someone else’s.

The research and calculations done for these projects will be used to help the school and the department discover new ways of creating theatre in a sustainable way. In other words, with the information you will provide doing this assignment, you can change the way we practice theatre here at Central!

#### **Extra Credit:**

Seeing a production outside of the school and writing a **production response** will count for 5% extra credit. You will have a limit of two (2) extra credit responses. Other extra credit may be offered throughout the semester.

You may also get 1-5% extra credit for **going to the writing center** with your Problem Paper above and beyond the required meeting.

### **ATTENDANCE AND CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

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 amount of time. If you are not in class for discussions and lectures you will fall behind.

You are allowed **two (2)** unexcused absences for the semester. An excused absence will only be accepted with a signed note from a doctor, the Chair of the Theatre Department, or your major’s department head. After two (2) unexcused absences your grade will go down one (1) letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence.

Excused absences are granted for illness or family emergencies, and the student life office (x5293) should be contacted when these absences occur. An excused absence means that the faculty member will permit the work to be made up at a later date.

All other absences must be coordinated directly with a faculty member. An unexcused absence means that no makeup work will be accepted. Students are expected to notify faculty in advance of the absence if possible.

When a student has missed all classes for **ten** consecutive class days, or who after the end of week seven is failing all classes and not regularly attending classes or completing labs or assignments, the college will begin the process to administratively withdraw the student from the college.

#### **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 12:31pm.

Every **two (2) tardies** will be considered an unexcused absence. After the (3) unexcused absences due to tardies, your grade will go down **one (1)** letter grade with each subsequent unexcused absence. If you have an unexcused excessive tardy (over fifteen minutes late) to any class you will be considered absent.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION:**

This class is based on discussions and learning from your classmates. You must actively participate in discussions and answer questions in order to succeed. In addition, collaborative practice will be necessary to for in class projects and discussions thus projects done in class will factor into you 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

### **GRADING:**

#### **Grading Breakdown:**

Class Participation	15% of Final Grade
Recycling Quiz	3% of Final Grade
Two (2) Production Responses	10% of Final Grade
Sustainable Theatre report	10% of Final Grade
Toxic Materials Test	10% of Final Grade
Six (6) Journals	12% of Final Grade
Problem Paper	15% of Final Grade
Final Project	25% of Final Grade

### **GRADE PERCENTAGE BREAKDOWN:**

92%-100%---A	90%-91%---A-	88%-89%---B+	82%-87%---B
80%-81%---B-	78%-79%---C+	72%-77%---C	70%-71%---C-
68%-69%---D+	62%-67%---D	60%-61%---D-	59%-----F

### **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Central College abides by interpretations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that stipulates no student shall be denied the benefits of an education "solely by reason of a handicap." Disabilities covered by law include, but are not limited to, learning disabilities, hearing, sight, or mobility impairments, and other health related impairments. If you have a documented disability that may have some impact on your work in this class for which you may require accommodations, please see me and Nancy Kroese, Director of Student Support Services and Disabilities Services Coordinator (x5247), during the first two weeks of the semester so that such accommodations may be arranged.

### **PLAGIARISM AND OTHER ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

Plagiarism, cheating, and unauthorized collaboration in any form are violations of academic integrity and may result in course penalties ranging from a lowered grade on the assignment to a failed grade for the course. In the case of serious or repeated instances, students may also be suspended or dismissed from the college. A copy of Central's Academic Integrity policy can be found in the Student Handbook, the Central Catalog, and on the web (Resources tab). It is your responsibility to read and understand the contents of that policy before you submit work to be graded. Questions regarding the policies and enforcement of the policies may be addressed to the instructor during class or during office hours.

### **NOTIFICATION OF PARTICIPATION IN COLLEGE-SANCTIONED EVENTS:**

Mock Trial participants, choir tour participants, athletes, and others who must miss a class to take part in a college-sanctioned event are expected to notify instructors well in advance and to complete assignments or exams in advance of the absence.

### **THEATRE DEPARTMENT POLICY CONCERNING TECHNICAL DEVICES IN CLASS AND EXAM ETIQUETTE:**

Cell Phones, Tablets, and Things that go "Ping": During the time that this class is meeting, please make sure that these devices are in vibrate only or non-audible mode (no buzzing), and do not use them during class time. The first time you are caught texting or e-mailing during class you will be given a warning; the second time you will be dismissed from the class for a day and will be marked as an unexcused absence. If you have to answer the phone because of a family emergency, please let me know at the beginning of class and I will accommodate appropriately.

If we are having class in the dark or on the move you are permitted to take notes on your phone or tablet but you must make me aware that you are doing this.

Unless you have hearing difficulty that requires you to have a “hearing-aid” – no “ear buds” headphones are to be used during class. You must get permission from me for their use during an exam. Cheating on any assignment will result in an F (no points) for that assignment and/or the class. The penalty for other forms of cheating or plagiarism is left to professor's discretion. Consult the Student Handbook for the Central College policy regarding academic dishonesty.

#### **A NOTE ON TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT:**

All written work should be typed and submitted digitally either by email or on Blackboard. The Sustainable Theatre Research presentation, and the Final Group Project should be done as a slideshow presentation that can be submitted digitally along with any supporting documents.

All the supplemental information and handouts for this class will be given to you in digital format. This is to save on paper and do our part to help the environment. If you need any of these as a hard copy please let me know and I will provide them for you.

Please back up your homework in at least two (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 this semester that may include offensive language, adult themes, and political/religious views that may not be in line with your personal beliefs. Materials in this course are used for the purpose of research and learning. They were not chosen to offend or be “preachy” and do not necessarily reflect the views of myself or Central College. I ask that you keep an open mind when exploring these works of literature.

**CALENDAR:**

Standard weight text= Work In Class

**Bold Text= Assignment Due**

*Italic text= •Reading Due*

WEEK	TUESDAY	THURSDAY
1 Aug 27th		Intro to course and syllabus discussion Theatre Overview
2 Sept. 1 & 3	• <i>Fried &amp; May Part 1</i> and pg 16-17 • <i>On Eco Theatre</i> <b>Journal #1 Due</b> Intro To Sustainability	• <i>Upcycle Handout</i> <b>Theater Research Project Choice (7pm 9/2)</b> Intro To Sustainability
3 Sept. 8 & 10	<i>Global Sustainability</i> Global Sustainability	• <i>Fried &amp; May pg 102</i> <i>Recycling and Trash</i> <b>RECYCLING TRIP</b>
4 Sept. 15 & 17	• <i>Fried &amp; May pg 21-22</i> • <i>Costing the Environment</i> • <b>Carbon Offset Factsheet</b> Recycling/ Carbon Emission/ Carbon offset	• <i>Fried &amp; May pg 43-53</i> • <i>Rossol Ch. 2, pg 54-56 and 61-62(graphs)</i> <b>Journal #2 Due</b> Intro to Hazardous Materials
5 Sept. 22 & 24	• <i>Carbon Footprint Handout</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle Pg. 4-6 &amp; 11-23</i> <b>Recycling Quiz Opens</b> Theatre Hierarchy and Design	• <i>Fried &amp; May Pg. 26-27</i> <b>Recycling Quiz Closes</b> Ecological Design
6 Sept. 29 & Oct. 1	<b>Theatre Research Presentations</b>	• <i>Fried and May pg. 39-41 &amp; 87-88</i> Facilities <b>ATTEND TE'A CONVOCATION @ 11am</b>
7 Oct. 6 & 8*	• <i>Fried &amp; May Pg 27-31</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle pg 32-36</i> <b>Journal #3 Due</b> Set Design	• <i>Jones- Set Construction</i> • <i>Rossol Ch. 28</i> • <i>Fried &amp; May Pg 78-80</i> Set Construction
8 Oct. 13	• <i>Rossol Pg. 205-207</i> • <i>Fried &amp; May Pg. 55-56, 64-66, 69-71, &amp; 73</i> <b>Production Response #1 Due</b> Scenic Paint and Chemicals	FALL BREAK-NO CLASS
9 Oct. 20 & 22	• <i>Donyale Werle</i> <b>Problem Paper Focus Due</b> UPcycle Set Design	• <i>Fried and May 31-34</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle Pg. 37-40</i> Costume Design/ UPcycle costume design
10 Oct. 27 & 29	UPcycle costume design work on own (I will be at AASHE Conference)	• <i>Fried and May pg. 58-64</i> • <i>Natural Dyes Handout</i> <b>Problem Paper Questions Due</b> Costume Construction and Dyeing
11 Nov 3 & 5	<b>UPcycle Costume Design Due</b> • <i>Fried and May pg. 35-36 &amp; 81-82</i> • <i>Rossol Make up Handout</i> Make-Up	• <i>Jones-Lighting</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle pg 24-28</i> • <i>Fried and May pg. 34-35 &amp; 77-78</i> <b>Journal #4 Due</b> Lighting and Special Effects
12 Nov 10 & 12	• <i>Towards a More Sustainable Theatre</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle pg. 29-31</i> <b>Problem Paper Sources Due AND Test Opens</b> Lights and Sound	• <i>Fried and May pg. 19-20</i> • <i>Julie's Bicycle 7-10 &amp; 41-42</i> <b>Hazardous Materials Test Closes</b> Artistic Management and Actors <b>ATTEND CONVOCATION @ 11am</b> and <b>THEATRE OF PUBLIC POLICY SHOW @</b> 7:30pm
13 Nov 17 & 19*	• <i>Fried and May pg. 20-21, 97-98 AND 99-101</i> Business Management	• <i>Fried and May pg. 22-26 &amp; 36-39</i> <b>Journal #5 Due</b> Marketing, House and Concessions
14 Nov. 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Problem Paper Draft Due</b> • <i>History of Eco Drama</i> Eco Drama and Change	THANKSGIVING- NO CLASS
15 Dec. 1 & 3	<b>Production Response #2 Due</b> <b>Bring Drafts of paper to class</b> In class group work/Peer-Review	In class group work
16 Dec. 8 & 10	<b>Last Day for Extra Credit</b> In class group work	<b>Journal #6 Due</b> In class group work
FINAL Dec 16 <sup>th</sup> at 1pm		<b>DUE: Final Project Presentation &amp; Problem Paper</b> Final Project Discussion

\* Tech/Opening Week