

THFM-3803-001 (3 Credit hours)

PROPERTIES FOR THE STAGE

Winter 2016
Saturdays, 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Royal MTC Prop Shop (174 Market Ave.)
Office Hours: TBA

Instructors: Larry Demedash/Kari Hagness
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Prerequisite: THFM-2801-001 Theatrical Production I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The objective of this course is to offer an introduction to the area of the theatre production department known as "Properties and Set Dressing." We will examine properties and set dressing through demonstrations, projects, and lectures, with the emphasis on hands-on "building."

The course will be divided into lab and lecture sessions which will take place in "the lab" (the Properties Workshop). During lectures, students will study the role of the Props Department in the larger context of the theatrical production, relationships with other departments, responsibilities of the department and of the various members in it, as well as how to approach prop-building projects. Reference will be made to professional productions.

During lab sessions typical basic prop-building materials and techniques will be demonstrated and the student will be given the opportunity to experiment with them. Some topics will include carving, glues and solvents, mold making, casting, upholstery, and furniture breakdown. Through lab sessions and assigned projects students will be expected to become familiar with the basic patterns of research, planning, and execution as they relate to props work.

TEXTS

The mandatory textbook for this course is "The Prop Building Guidebook for Theatre, Film, and TV" (Eric Hart, Focal Press, 2013). Also recommended, but not mandatory, is "The Properties Director's Handbook: Managing a Prop Shop for Theatre" (Sandra Strawn, Focal Press, 2013). There will also be a mandatory handout booklet of notes appropriate to the course, written by the professors, and issued at a cost to cover the printing (between \$5 -10, tba). The deadline to pay this fee **to the instructor** is at the second class, **Saturday, January 16, 2016. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** If you fail to pay in full by the deadline, a "hold" will be placed on your student file which means that no activity will be permitted on your file until the fee is paid and the hold cleared. Payment should be made by **cash** (exact amount please) or **cheque** (made payable to UWinnipeg Dept. of Theatre & Film).

Reference materials will also be suggested.

Reference Sources in Lieu of Texts:

Students must be prepared to use a library and or a museum to research projects in specific fields such as weapons, armour, furniture, fine art, musical instruments, toys, food, publications, money, flowers, and so on.

EVALUATION

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|---|-------------|
| (Script/Props List) Project #1 (due January 16, 2016)..... | 5% |
| (Practical) Project #2 (due January 30, 2016) | 15% |
| (Practical) Project #3 (due February 6, 2016)..... | 10% |
| (Practical) Project #4 (due March 19, 2016) | 25% |
| (Practical in Class) Project #5 (due March 5) | 15% |
| (Practical in Class) Project #6 (due Apr. 2, 2016)..... | 5% |
| Attendance: (2 marks out of 10 will be deducted for each unexcused absence) | 10% |
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| Term Work..... | 85% |
| Final Exam (In Royal MTC shop) (Sat. April (TBA), 2016- 9:00 a.m.) | 15% |
| | ----- |
| TOTAL | 100% |

Policy on Late Assignments:

Because in theatre Opening Night is the **DROP DEAD DEADLINE**, late assignments will **NOT** be accepted. All project work must be completed on schedule.

Minimum Average Workload:

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Lectures/Scheduled Labs..... | 3 hours/week |
| Research/Projects..... | 2 hours/week |
| | ----- |
| TOTAL | 5 hours/week |

CONVERSION SCALE

For the calculation of the final grade the following conversion table will be used:

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|----|------------|-----|------|----|------------|-----|-----|
| A+ | 90 – 100% | GPA | 4.5 | C+ | 65 – 69.9% | GPA | 2.5 |
| A | 85 – 89.9% | GPA | 4.25 | C | 60 – 64.9% | GPA | 2.0 |
| A- | 80 – 84.9% | GPA | 4.0 | D | 50 – 59.9% | GPA | 1.0 |
| B+ | 75 – 79.9% | GPA | 3.5 | F | below 50% | GPA | 0 |
| B | 70 – 74.9% | GPA | 3.0 | | | | |

Work not submitted will be graded as 0%

PREPARATION

Students will be expected to bring materials necessary to take notes.

Please purchase a new, thin bladed break-off Olfa (or similar) knife for carving, for Jan. 16 class.

Also useful, but not mandatory, is a carpenter's tape measure.

For March 19 class, please bring a simple chair seat that needs recovering, and a fabric of your choice

Refreshments are not available in the shop, so please bring your own refreshment if desired. There will be a fifteen minute break midway in each class.

DRESS REQUIREMENTS

Students must come to class dressed appropriately for shop work: prepare to get dirty: there will be exposure to normal shop conditions, which include sawdust, styrofoam chips, and sometimes Fiberglas or other messy materials. Do not wear open-toed or high heeled shoes. (we expect to wear steel-toed shoes at work normally). Please bring a shop coat or apron if desired. Disposable gloves will be available.

"THE REAL THING" LECTURE SERIES

The Department of Theatre and Film is presenting a series of six lectures which will be held on Wednesdays (except where noted) during the free period (12:30-13:20) in Theatre 1T15. Please note the Winter dates in your diary **NOW**: Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9. This series will feature speakers from a range of areas in the performing arts: technical, performance, design, management, film, directing, playwriting, etc. These speakers will specifically address issues related to "the business of the business."

Attendance for potential Theatre Honours/majors and for Film majors is optional but highly recommended.

BUILDING SECURITY

The Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (home to the Department of Theatre and Film) is open from 8:00 am and 5:30 pm weekdays only. Students are permitted to be in the building between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm seven days per week (except statutory holidays when the University is closed) **BUT PLEASE NOTE**: outside of regular building hours, it is **MANDATORY** that everyone in the building **EITHER** carry an access card **OR** have a booking confirmation form in their possession (hard copy or electronic). **ALL EVENING STUDENTS in the building for classes MUST have an access card.** If a Security Guard checks and you do not have proper accreditation, **you may be evicted.**

These rules are in place to protect our students and our equipment; please respect them.

ELECTRONIC COURSE OUTLINE ADDENDA

Students must check our website at <http://theatre.uwinnipeg.ca/tbooking.htm> and read the menu items called *Fire Safety Instructions in the Asper Centre for Theatre and Film*, *Access Card/Building Use Policy* **AND** *Room Booking Instructions*. The link to the electronic *Online Room Booking Form* is also found at this location. Please read and note all instructions carefully.

GENERAL NOTES

This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.

Archival records such as videotapes, sound recordings, and photographs may be made or taken during class or lab times. The University uses such materials primarily for archival, promotional, and teaching purposes. Promotional use may include display at open houses or conferences, or use in advertising, publicity, or brochures. In reading and accepting the terms in this course outline, students acknowledge consent for such use by the University. Should a student not wish to convey such consent, s/he should withdraw from this course immediately.

Cellular phones **MUST** be turned off during classes and examinations; texting is **NOT** permitted in class.

Any student attending a test or final examination may be required to present proof of identity; photo identification is preferred.

It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

Students are strongly advised to read the section of the *University of Winnipeg Calendar* (found on-line at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/new-faculty-handbook/appeals-and-academic-misconduct.html>) for information on Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Student's Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensure students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at <http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy> or call 204-786-9780.

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make up work examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses which begin on January 5 and end in April 5, 2016 (Winter 2016 Term).

STUDENT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Theatre is a communal art form in which a number of interdependent artists and crafts people co-operate to create a work of art. This fact is necessarily transferred to the learning situation, and is reflected in many of the Department's courses. Consequently, it is the Department's policy that students are required to: complete homework such as reading, line-learning, script analysis, prop lists, design drawings, etc.; attend classes; attend rehearsals both within and outside of class times; and, in short, to exhibit commitment towards the inevitably shared endeavours of our field of study.

Any student failing to fulfil these requirements is harmful to the progress of dedicated students and may, after due warning, be asked to withdraw from any individual Departmental course.

COURSE CONTENT NOTE

All Theatre and Film Classes

Dramatic Literature depicts a wide variety of human action, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. The Department of Theatre and Film will not undertake to censor the subject matter of dramatic works.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of content and style in drama/film are urged to discuss these concerns with the course instructor.