

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND FILM

THFM-3808-001 (3 credit hours)

**ADVANCED STAGECRAFT PRACTICUM**  
Course Information

Winter (Jan 5-Feb 13, 2016)  
Variable  
Room 1T12

Instructor: Aaron R. Frost  
Office: 1T13  
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs, 9:30-11:00 a.m.  
and by appointment

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**PREREQUISITE:** THFM-2801/6 and Permission of the Instructor.

This course is a practicum in stagecraft which will encompass the management and construction of all scenery for the Department's 3rd-year public exercise. Students will be involved in the costing and ordering of all scenic elements, taking into consideration budgetary restraints and alternative solutions, the planning and scheduling of the scene shop, shop set-up as it relates to the production, construction, painting and installation of all scenic elements, and removal of the set. The development of blue-print reading will be emphasized as well as focusing on practical skills as they relate to scenic construction.

Emphasis will be placed on the role of the Master Carpenter and the relationship with the set designer, director, technical director, production manager, and stage manager.

Considerations of safety in the handling of equipment and materials will be included throughout along with the continued use of the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.

**EVALUATION**

20% Preproduction preparation  
50% Construction and painting  
10% Installation  
10% Dismantling and Storage  
10% Participation  
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100%

**CONVERSION SCALE**

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

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%.

**POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

All project work and papers must be submitted on time. Late assignments will **not** be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor concerned.

## **MINIMUM WORKLOAD AND SCHEDULE**

Production meetings    1.0 hrs/week  
 Research/Readings    1.0 hrs/week (a guideline)

In addition to the above, production lab work may be estimated at not less than 70 hours. This work is variable and will be worked into individual student schedules. As this constitutes a time-consuming component of the course, students should not take this commitment lightly and any concerns regarding this additional load should be raised with the instructor immediately.

## **TEXTS**

*Backstage Handbook* by Paul Carter; Broadway Press, Louisville Kentucky  
*Scene Design and Stage Lighting* by Parker, Wolf and Block; Thomson Wadsworth  
*WHMIS Handbook for Students*, U of W Bookstore  
*The Stagecraft Handbook*, by Daniel A. Ionazzi, Players Press, Studio City, CA.

In addition to the required texts the student is directed to several other books and periodicals that are available as reference sources. These include:

1. *Scene Technology* by Richard L. Arnold; Prentice Hall
2. *Theatrical Design and Production* by A.S. Gillette and J.M. Gillette; Harper and Row
3. *Scene Design, Stage Lighting, Sound, Costumes and Make-up* by W.P. Bellman; Harper and Row
4. *Scenery for the Theatre* by H. Burris-Meyer and B.C. Cole; Little Brown and Company
5. *Stage Scenery, Its Construction and Rigging* by A.S. Gillette and J. M. Gillette; Harper and Row
6. *Theatre Crafts International*, a monthly periodical available in the library.

Additional references will be cited during the course of the term.

Students will be expected to have a 3-ring binder, a pencil, a geometry set, a 16 ft. standard (Imperial) tape measure, and an Imperial measure (Architect's) scale ruler for every session.

## **SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

**January 5<sup>th</sup>:**    Build Begins  
**January 30<sup>th</sup>:**    Set Install  
**February 13<sup>th</sup>:**    Set Strike

Other deadlines will be established based on the play's Production Schedule.

## **"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](http://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>

**JANUARY 28, 2016** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from this course.

### **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.

#### Performance-Related Classes

Much of an actor's work is based upon actual experiences of life which become translated into fictional circumstances. Because of this, the teaching of acting may involve encouraging the student to examine

personal and even intimate areas of life to help him or her access life experiences appropriate to the demands of the work.

Dramatic literature depicts a wide range of human actions, both elevated and base, public and private, physical and psychological, sexual and non-sexual, etc. Acting students must learn to simulate life truthfully in interaction with other students in the safety of the acting class and the rehearsal hall through exercises, discussions, and directions which address rather than avoid truthful, particularized, personalized action.

Performance classes often require strenuous physical activity. Classes may also involve physical interaction between students as part of class exercises or character development and occasional physical contact by instructors for purposes such as the demonstration of a technique or to make a posture correction. Students are responsible for wearing clothing appropriate to these activities.

Students who have concerns about dealing with the full range of actions and subject matter involved in drama are urged to discuss these concerns with their course instructor.